FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ORIGINAL

SOVIET UNION

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GROMYKO TO HEAD SOVIET DELEGATIONS TO UN ASSEMBLY

LD171622Y Moscow TASS in English 1603 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, May 17 TASS--The USSR Council of Ministers has approved the Soviet delegation for the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament that opens on May 23. The delegation is led by USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko.

The Council of Ministers of the Ukraine has approved the Ukrainian delegation led by Foreign Minister of the Ukraine Georgiy Shevel.

The Council of Ministers of Belorussia has approved the Belorussian delegation led by Foreign Minister of the Republic Anatoliy Gurinovich.

PRAVDA NOTES NEED FOR RESULTS AT UN DISARMAMENT SESSION

LD172300Y Moscow TASS in English 2244 GMT 17 May 78 LD

["On the Eve of an Important Forum"--TASS headline; Moscow TASS International Service in Russian at 2225 GMT on 17 May describes the PRAVDA item as an Editorial Article]

[Text] Moscow May 18 TASS--Follows the full text of an editorial in today's PRAVDA.

A special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament opens in New York on May 23. Doubtlessly, it will be an event of great political importance. Such a representative and prestigious forum on the most important problem of international life is being held for the first time in history.

The very convocation of such a session indicates the profound interest of the peoples of the earth in curbing the dangerous arms race.

"To arrest the arms race, to ensure advance towards a reduction and, ultimately, the removal of the threat of a thermonuclear catastrophe," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev stressed, "is the basic problem on the agenda of our life today. It is here, in this direction, that the root question is being resolved on how the international situation is going to develop further. It is precisely here and now that the sharpest struggle is unfolding."

As a result of the persistent and consistent efforts of the USSR and other socialist states, of all peace-loving forces of the planet, it was possible to achieve certain results along this most important direction. In recent years a series of bilateral and multilateral agreements were concluded which shut off some of the channels of the arms race, ban on or restrict individual types of weapons. Businesslike negotiations are now under way on a number of problems of restricting armaments and of disarmament.

However, though individual barriers have been raised in the path of the arms race, it continues at an increasing pace. The already stockpiled destructive potential of existing armaments exceeds a thousand-fold the might of the weaponry used in past wars. Scientific and technical achievements in NATO countries are being used ever more broadly for military purposes: The creation of new, still more lethal kinds and systems of weapons is going on full blast. The arms race not only obstructs the further deepening of the favourable process of international detente, but engenders the threat of nuclear war. In these circumstances no one can guarantee that the race will not get out of control.

The vicious run-away build-up of means of warfare is felt today actually in all countries of the world. Mammoth material and manpower resources are being detracted from the needs of the social and economic development of states, from resolving such global problems as fighting hunger, poverty, diseases, protecting the environment, etc.

In these circumstances vigorous actions by all states, by all peaceloving forces coming out for ending the process of the material preparation of war are a must. The special session of the assembly is called upon to make an important contribution to this matter.

The Soviet Union, having supported the UN decision to hold a special session of the assembly on disarmament, was active in its preparation. The USSR believes that it must facilitate the creation of the broadest possible front of peaceloving forces coming out for implementing disarmament--this cardinal task of our days. The session could formulate the fundamental provisions or principles that would create a foundation for negotiations and decisions on questions of containing the arms race and of disarmament. The participants will have to determine the main directions for the efforts of states in the sphere of ending the arms race and practical priority tasks in this direction. Of course, such a programme must be of a realistic, concrete character and be acceptable to all states.

The USSR, Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Mongolia, Poland and Czechoslovakia, in preparing the special session, have submitted drafts of the basic provisions of a declaration and action programme on disarmament. Formulated in them is the constructive approach to the socialist countries to the topical questions of military relaxation.

The Soviet Union is going to the U.N. forum with concrete businesslike proposals. The end goal underlying the numerous Soviet initiatives on disarmament questions is universal and complete disarmament under effective international control. The Soviet Union's peaceableness, stated Comrade L. I. Brezhnev in an interview for the weekly VORWAERTS, stems from the very nature of our society where the supreme goal, proclaimed by the laws and decisions of the highest political bodies, is concern for the steady growth of the material wellbeing and culture of people." Naturally, this noble goal is incompatible with the wasteful and costly arms race.

The line of the USSR in the sphere of disarmament is distinguished by initiatives and concreteness, by realistically taking into account the interests of all sides. The USSR's proposals are built on the basis of the strict observance of the principle of undiminished security of the parties to agreements. Their implementation would allow not only to arrest, but to prevent the arms race already in the nearest future.

The experience of the disarmament struggle dictates the need to adopt truly sweeping measures, involving most diverse aspects of military relaxation. As Comrade L. I. Brezhnev recently stated, the time has come to think about the complete cessation of the further quantitative and qualitative growth of armaments and armed forces of the states possessing a large military potential, and thereby to create conditions for their subsequent reduction.

The USSR proposes to discuss, as priority steps, a programme for implementing, within a definite limited period of time, the following measures:

- ending the manufacture of nuclear weapons in all their forms;

- ending the manufacture of and banning all other types of weapons of mass destruction;

- ending the creation of new kinds of conventional weapons of high destructive power;

- renouncing the enlargement of armies and the build-up of conventional armaments by the permanent members of the Security Council, and also by the countries linked to those powers through military agreements.

These Soviet proposals evoked broad approval and support in many countries. They indicate a realistic path for resolving cardinal problems of disarmament, strengthening peace and the security of the peoples.

An important place at the session must go to the discussion of approaches to resolving the problem of nuclear arms limitations. At present nuclear weapons have developed into a huge complex of types and systems of means of striking, varied in purpose, yield, and means for carrying the nuclear charges to targets. The task of reducing the danger of nuclear war is extremely complicated. But it can and must be solved. For this, the USSR proposes to reach agreement on ending the manufacture of all kinds of nuclear weapons. Parallel to this the nuclear powers could take the commitment to begin a gradual reduction of the accumulated stockpiles.

The struggle to reduce the threat of a thermonuclear catastrophe cannot be a unilateral or a selective process. All the nuclear powers must participate in the search for ways to resolve the problem. The refusal by individual powers of such a search cannot be justified.

The special session cannot bypass the topical problem of averting the danger of a nuclear war. The USSR set forth a special draft resolution outlining a list of measures on this question at the 32nd session of the U.N. General Assembly. Of course, the solution of such a big task takes time. An important stage on the road of its solution would be the earliest ending by all states of nuclear weapons tests. This is an urgent measure and all conditions for its implementation are ripe. This would allow to put an end to the qualitative perfection of nuclear weapons and prevent the appearance of their new types.

The Soviet Union comes out for the session to confirm the measures directed at a maximum consolidation of the regimen of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The threat of nuclear war would increase steeply, were the states not possessing them at present to join the process of creating and stockpiling nuclear weapons. Yet this possibility exists. Witness the preparations for nuclear tests in the R.S.A.

The session must have its weighty say also on such an important issue as a ban on the creation of new types and systems of mass destruction weapons. The continuing work in this field is a challenge to the very idea of holding a special session of the assembly. The necessity of getting agreement in this field is growing from day to day. Special significance is assumed by the question of a ban on the neutron weapon, the threat of whose deployment in Western Europe aroused indignation and protests of peaceloving public. The Soviet Union proposed to the states of the West to reach agreement on mutual renunciation of its production, and the socialist states tabled a relevant draft convention at the Disarmament Committee in Geneva.

The U.N. forum is also to discuss questions pertaining to a ban on the chemical weapon, to a cut in armed forces and conventional arms, creation of nuclear-free zones and peace zones in various parts of the world and other problems.

The conclusion of a world treaty on non-use of force in international relations would be an effective means for strengthening peace.

The idea of holding a special session has stimulated interest in disarmament issues all over the world and envigorates the activity of many countries. This is seen from the numerous proposals put forward recently, which cover most diverse aspects of this problem. Preparations for the session have at the same time shown that getting agreement on its decisions will be a no easy job, as represented at the U.N. are 149 states and their stands and interests are far from being the same.

There are influential forces in the world, that have a stake in the arms race, in whipping up an atmosphere of fear and animosity. They are in the first place the military-industrial complexes of the imperialist states. They are sowing doubt as regards the possibility of taking practical measures for curbing the arms race and for disarmament and are impeding the attainment of an agreement. Acting in league with them are the Peking leaders, who sabotage, as a matter of fact, any positive decisions in this field. All this complicates the situation, in which the special session will be held.

Certain complexities are cropping up also in connection with the fact that on the eve of the special session, proposals are at times put forward that are remote from reality and do not take into consideration the whole complexity and delicate nature of the problems of disarmament connected with the questions of national security. At times, such plans are put forward under the cloak of "radical initiatives" that would in essence be conducive to the establishment of military supremacy of one group of countries over another, that is a change in the existing balance of forces. Such calculations have no chances for success. A weighty contribution to the cause of disarmament can be made only by realistic proposals, which are based on the principle of undiminished national security of all sides.

The UN forum is to examine the question of the mechanism of the talks on disarmament. On the whole, the mechanism in its present shape corresponds to the scale and character of the disarmament problems. But claims can be heard not infrequently that insufficient progress at the talks is explained by the serious shortcomings of the existing system of the talks, which must be if not broken then radically restructured.

Experience suggests: A cautious approach must be taken to the question of altering the mechanism of the negotiations. The existing mechanism must operate more fruitfully. The possibilities of the UN should also be used more effectively. In this no damage should be inflicted on those forms of negotiations (for example, the Geneva Disarmament Committee) which have acquitted themselves.

Translating into life the decisions to be adopted at the special session of the Assembly could be implemented in the best possibly way at a world conference on disarmament, to the convocation of which the Soviet Union and many other countries attach great importance. This conference must be that forum, that will allow to go over from declarations and recommendations adopted by the sessions of the General Assembly, to practical work on agreeing on effective decisions in this field of disarmament. The special session is called upon to adopt practical decisions for speeding up the convocation of the world conference.

The peoples of the world expect of the special session of the UN General Assembly the adoption of solid, weighty documents, reflecting a maximally wide degree of consensus.

Numerous international and national public organisations wish the General Assembly success. Joint actions and cooperation by various public forces working for disarmament assumes today a special significance and may largely facilitate the achievement of positive results also at the special session.

The successful holding of the session would facilitate the deepening of political detente and complementing it with relaxation in the military field.

The Soviet Union comes out for the session to proceed in a businesslike atmosphere and conclude with the adoption of useful decisions. "We wish the session success and will actively facilitate it," stated Comrade L.I. Brezhnev.

The task of curbing the arms race can be resolved: The political and material prerequisites for a resolute advance to disarmament are there. The main thing at present is to transfer the present initiatives onto the practical plane, to actively advance along the road of resolving this cardinal problem of our time in the interests of all mankind.

SOVIET UNION GEARS POLICY ONLY TOWARD DEFENSE

LD131041Y Moscow TASS in English 1030 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, May 13, TASS--The Soviet Union welcomes the convocation in New York on May 23 of a special session of the U.N. General Assembly--the biggest ever international forum of disarmament issues--and goes to it firmly resolved to make its weighty positive contribution to the resolution of the problems under discussion, writes the newspaper SELSKAYA ZHIZN. The socialist countries and other peace-loving states express the hope that the forthcoming forum will contribute to the convocation at the earliest date of a world conference on disarmament by playing an essential role in mobilizing the efforts of all states for curbing the arms race.

The arms race has assumed now a genuinely global scale and has become the greatest ever danger to mankind, the newspaper notes. According to the U.N. figures, the nuclear arsenal accumulated in the world today, is equal in its yield to more than 1,300,000 bombs of the Hiroshima type. The tactical nuclear weapon deployed in the European Continent alone excells tens of times the yield of the weapons used throughout the whole six years of the Second World War. The most reactionary forces of the West linked with the Pentagon and NATO and expressing the strivings of the military-industrial complex do not cease their attempts at pushing the world to a new, expensive and extremely dangerous round of arms race, at achieving "military supremacy" over the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union true to its Leninist peace policy comes out tirelessly and consistently for curbing the arms race and for disarmament up to universal and complete disarmament, SELSKAYA ZHIZN stresses. There is no such type of weapon that the Soviet Union would not be ready to limit and ban on the basis of reciprocity under an agreement with other states and then withdraw them from its arsenals. Over the 33 years of existence of the United Nations organisation, 149 states--members of this international organisation, made 230 various proposals in connection with disarmament problem, more than a third of them having been presented by the Soviet Union.

The newspaper recalls that the proposal on the convocation of a world disarmament conference was put forward from the rostrum of the 24th Congress of the CPSU and reaffirmed at the 25th Congress of the CPSU. The forthcoming special session of the U.N. General Assembly shall adopt, as one of the final documents, a declaration on disarmament, and the USSR together with other socialist states tabled such a draft declaration as far back as in September 1977. It is necessary to (?pull) the efforts of all states, nuclear and non-nuclear, big and small, developed and developing ones, to put the initiatives into practice, in order to be able to advance along the road of achieving binding effective agreements in the field of disarmament, the document stresses.

SELSKAYA ZHIZN notes that "now on the eve of the special session of the General Assembly, definite circles in the West are trying for purely provocative aims to sow fears around the alleged "Soviet menace', use all sorts of fantastic inventions about 'sinister Soviet intentions' and enormous 'Soviet military spendings'. But futile are the attempts of those who launched a 'psychological war' against the USSR to deceive peoples: The substance of Soviet military policy is everything for effective defence and nothing in excess of it. Our political line is not a course for supremacy in armaments, but that for reducing and easing military confrontation."

The special session of the U.N. General Assembly is to open at a time when the political climate is steadily becoming ever more favourable, the newspaper notes. The struggle for strengthening peace against the nuclear war menace determines in the long run the course of the most important international developments, and marching in the vanguard of this struggle are the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community. A fresh vivid evidence of this is Leonid Brezhnev's recent visit to the FRG. Soviet and international public hopes and believes that the forthcoming special session of the U.N. General Assembly will make its contribution to resolving this important problem.

TASKS OF UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT SET OUT

LD171654Y Moscow TASS in English 1624 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, May 17 TASS--"Given the goodwill and desire of the United Nations member states for cooperation, the special session of the United Nations General Assembly can and must make a substantial contribution to the struggle to curb the arms race, for progress towards real disarmament measures. There are opportunities to achieve this. The Soviet Union will do everything depending on it to make the session a success," says the weekly NEW TIMES. "The Soviet Union is going to the special session with a comprehensive and concrete programme of measures to end the arms race and promote disarmament. It was set forth in a whole line of documents, submitted by the USSR, jointly with other socialist states, in the Preparatory Committee of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly.

"The Soviet Union believes that the time has come to think of putting an end to the further quantitative and qualitative growth of the armaments and armed forces of states possessing a large military potential. It urges to discuss a concrete programme of action for the immediate future: discontinuation of the production of nuclear and other types of mass annihilation weapons, discontinuation of the development of new types of conventional highly destructive weapons, renunciation of the expansion of the armies and conventional armaments of the permanent members of the Security Council, and also of the countries linked to them by military agreements. Of course, it is not easy to reach agreement on the implementation of such a programme. This is why the ending of the production of nuclear weapons could serve as the beginning. Inasmuch as the principal danger to peace comes from the mounting nuclear arms race, the measures to nuclear disarmament must be placed in the centre of the efforts of states. The General Assembly must promote the beginning of concrete negotiations on this problem." The General Assembly is to have its weighty say on the question of banning the development of new types and systems of mass annihilation weapons, the NEW TIMES continues.

Taking into account the wide-spread public movement against the U.S. plans to manufacture and deploy neutron weapons in Western Europe, the General Assembly must exert efforts to prevent the implementation of such plans. The Soviet Union has proposed to the Western states to reach agreement before it is too late on the mutual renunciation of the production of neutron weapons. "The problem, which will be the subject of serious talks in the United Nations, concerns all the people of the world and the deliberations will definitely reflect the acute political struggle that is being waged around the questions of disarmament. The socialist states are going to the session with proposals which are shared also by the nonaligned nations, making up the majority in the United Nations. The Western countries will also come out with their concepts. Some of them, as before, will try apparently, to reduce the matter to the adoption by the session of standard decisions, will try to limit themselves to verbal declarations and promises.

It should not be overlooked that influential circles opposed to disarmament are active in the NATO countries. These forces, doubtlessly, will want to exert their influence on the progress of the session."

USSR DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR VIENNA ARMS REDUCTION TALKS

LD171124Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1112 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Vienna--A Soviet delegation that will participate in the 15th round of talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and arms in central Europe, which starts tomorrow, arrived here today.

ABLAMOV ON U.S. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON CSCE

LD172242Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1527 GMT 17 May 78 LD

["Belgrade: Attempts Doomed to Failure"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow--TASS observer Ivan Ablamov writes: The notorious "Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe," created by the U.S. Congress, has published a report on the results of the Belgrade meeting. Why has this document appeared? Perhaps the commission, well known for its hostility to the process of detente, has changed and decided this time to sum up the results of the Belgrade meeting in a businesslike way and deduce the relevant conclusions from it? However it is a waste of time to seek signs of such a change in the new verbal distortion by the commission. Its aim lies clearly in trying to justify the subversive activities of the U.S. delegation at the meeting and simultaneously cast a shadow on the position of the USSR and the other socialist countries.

So, contrary to the facts, the report's authors assert that seemingly the dialog in Belgrade on a number of problems, including the development of economic and cultural links, "was not as far advanced as the Western countries would have liked" owing to the position of the Soviet Union and the other socialist states. The authors of this unexpected conclusion give the impression that they have never heard of the program of concrete proposals on the question of military detente; the extension of all-European cooperation in environmental protection, transportation and energy; the strengthening of trust among states with differing systems, put forward in Belgrade by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

Meanwhile, to everyone who followed the meeting, it was well known that while the Soviet delegation did everything for the success of this forum, U.S. representatives tried in every possible way to hinder its participants' approval of important decisions.

"The forgetfulness" of American congressmen is not difficult to understand, inasmuch as they are trying to justify the negative approach by the United States. The commission approves the activities of the U.S. delegation, which in essence, pursuing a line contrary to the approval by the Belgrade meeting of proposals on important aspects of security and cooperation in Europe, resorted to obstructionist tactics and to a demagogy around the question of "human rights."

This approach by the U.S. delegation in Belgrade was dictated by the interests of those U.S. circles that, camouflaging themselves behind speculative declarations "on the defense of human rights," are trying to achieve the right to interfere in the affairs of others, and legalize interference in the internal affairs of the socialist countries under various guises. The commission report reflects the attitude of these U.S. circles. Its authors even see the behavior of the U.S. delegation in Belgrade as a praiseworthy "precedent" for the future. In connection with this, one may recall that the U.S.' activities on the question of "human rights" have already received a merited rebuff. They did not find the support of many countries and failed in Belgrade. A similar fate awaits the same provocative actions in the future.

ZAIRIAN CRISIS PROMPTS REVIEW OF U.S. MILITARY ACTIONS

LD172246Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2130 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Yuriy Soltan report from Washington]

[Text] The United States is preparing to militarily intervene in the African Republic of Zaire, where fighting is continuing between rebels from the Shaba Province and government troops.

As was reported by the Pentagon, units of the 82d Airborne Division, transported to military bases in North Carolina, have been placed on combat alert. All transport planes have also been put on stand-by to transport the troops to the African Continent. The operation will begin immediately if the Pentagon considers that the lives of Americans in Zaire are threatened.

This pretext has been used for some time by the United States to conceal its military adventures in other countries.

It has also become known that President James Carter, at a meeting with congressional leaders in the White House, sharply criticized earlier congressional decisions that Carter claimed crippled the administration's ability to provide rapid and effective military aid to allies of the United States. Carter's claim concerns the law adopted in 1973 that prevents the administration from sending American troops to other countries without congressional approval. An amendment to this law on the transport of arms forbids the administration to render direct or indirect military aid to groups or countries planning the armed overthrow of the Angolan Government.

Although the Carter administration has not yet asked Congress to abrogate these and other restrictions, the first step in this direction has been taken.

It should be added that, even at the beginning of the year, the Pentagon established special shock forces, up to 100,000 troops, for operational use when necessary in various parts of the world where a threat to the security and interests of the United States emerges.

Commenting on all these facts, local observers conclude that a dangerous strategy is now being developed in Washington to activate a policy of U.S. military interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Supplies to Zaire

LD180854Y Moscow TASS in English 0730 GMT 18 May 78 LD

[Text] Washington, May 18, TASS--The United States is stepping up intervention in the internal conflict in Zaire. A State Department spokesman said that the administration had resolved to speed up American supplies under the current "aid" programmes to the Mobutu government, which is fighting against rebel forces in Shaba Province, and was also considering the urgent shipping to Zaire of supplementary equipment, including spares, communications facilities and oil products. The spokesman confirmed that a number of U.S. Air Force units were still alerted. He asserted that this was an ordinary precautionary measure taken in case of the necessity of safeguarding the security of American citizens in Zaire.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN U.S., ZAMBIA ON RHODESIA CITED

LD181118Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0840 GMT 18 May 78 LD

[Text] Washington, 18 May--TASS correspondent Vitaliy Gan reports: Talks have begun in the White House between U.S. President J. Carter and Zambian President K. Kaunda, who arrived here on an official 2-day visit. The Zambian president will also meet in Washington with U.S. cabinet members, senators and members of the House of Representatives.

According to a statement by an official U.S. Government spokesman, main attention at the first meeting in the White House was focused on the situation in southern Africa, where the Western powers, headed by the United States, are strenuously trying to save odious racialist regimes. With London, Washington is trying to impose on the Africans a so-called Rhodesian settlement plan that envisages the establishment of a puppet regime to guarantee the West's strategic and economic interests.

The White House spokesman did not say what results the participants in the talks had achieved. He only noted that ideas had been exchanged on the prospects for a settlement in Rhodesia.

Such laconism further indicates the existence of marked differences between the United States and Zambia in their approach to the Rhodesian problem. It is pointed out that the Zambian Government is suspicious of the Anglo-American plan--they consider it to be a trick aimed at "appeasing" the racialists.

According to press reports, differences also existed on the subject of Soviet and Cuban assistance to new African states for their development and their struggle for national independence. In a short speech to reporters, the Zambian president categorically refused to participate in the West's malicious slander campaign against the principled policy of the USSR and Cuba in Africa.

He pointed out that instead of embarking on such malicious campaigns it was necessary to resolve the problem of removing the strongholds of racism and colonialism.

PAPERS CRITICIZE U.S. ARMS SALES TO MIDDLE EAST

LD180650Y Moscow TASS in English 0650 GMT 18 May 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, May 17, TASS--Commenting on a decision by the U.S. Senate to approve the administration's proposal to sell 200 military aircraft to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, the paper ASH-SHA'B notes that Cairo and Riyadh made far reaching political concessions to the U.S. to get its agreement to the deal. It is noteworthy, the paper writes, that the negotiations with the American side on the aircraft deliveries began only after the Egyptian regime made its capitulatory move towards concluding a separate deal with Israel.

It must be also added, the ASH-SHA'B stresses, that all the control levels regarding the use of these aircraft by Egypt and Saudi Arabia, namely, the training of pilots, the servicing personnel, the delivery of spares, will be in U.S. hands.

The sale of the American aircraft to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, the paper concludes, allows Israel to raise the hue and cry about a threat to its security in order to take a still tougher stand in its bargaining with the Arabs.

Hanoi, May 17, TASS--The paper NHAN DAN sharply criticises the U.S. decision to start a new spiralling of the arms race in the Middle East. It draws attention to the fact that the American administration has pushed through Congress a deal on selling 200 aircraft at a time when the situation in that area is far from settled. New arms deliveries to Middle East countries, the paper stresses, will create still greater tension there. This is why assertions by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, alleging that the armaments sales help to maintain peace in the area, are an invalid attempt to justify U.S. policy.

The NHAN DAN points to the fact that American arms exports are steadily growing, to reach an unprecedented level under the Carter administration. The sales of military technology, says the commentary, is becoming a tool for the intrusion and expansion of American influence. The decision to send weapons to the Middle East, taken a few days before the opening of the special session of the U.N. General Assembly on disarmament, once again lays bare the U.S. ruling circles hypocrisy.

'Pandora's Box' of Arms Sales

LD171421Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 May 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Correspondent M. Sturua dispatch: "Dangerous Weapons for the Near East"]

[Text] Washington--Two years ago, while still a candidate, J. Carter declared: "I am concerned at the way in which the United States pumps weapons into certain countries in the Near East on a scale far exceeding their legitimate requirements for self-defense.... This unrestrained arms race increases the likelihood of war breaking out. It hinders peaceful negotiations. It erodes security."

Actually, however, things have changed. Last year--Carter's first year in office--Israel, Saudi Arabia and Iran were the main consumers of U.S. weapons. This year, according to Pentagon estimates, U.S. weapons, a record $13.2 billion worth, will be sold, and next year even more weapons are expected to be sold--to the tune of $13.5 billion. The Pentagon is setting these sinister records thanks to a new deal which it is undertaking: The sale of fighters to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The struggle that erupted over this deal in Congress has received much attention in Washington recently. As is known, the deal was originally of a "package" nature. It "wrapped up" 15 of the latest U.S. fighters (F-15's) for Israel, which already has 25 aircraft of this type; 60 fighters (F-15's) for Saudi Arabia; and 50 obsolete fighters (F-5's) for Egypt. The term "package" meant all or nothing. Either the deal was to be accepted entirely by the legislators or rejected entirely. When the "package" method aroused sharp opposition from Israel and its Zionist lobby in the United States, including in Congress itself, the U.S. President opened up the "package," declaring that the deal could be discussed in parts, i.e., for each country mentioned in it.

The proposed compromise did not satisfy Israel and its patrons on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The White House then made a further concession to Tel Aviv. In addition to the 15 F-15 fighters, Israel was to receive 20 similar aircraft plus 75 F-16 fighters. As a result, the cost of an already enormous arms deal rose to $6 billion. As Senator Sarbanes declared, "this figure flagrantly contradicts President Carter's rhetoric on cutting back the role of the United States as a world trader in weapons." [paragraph continues]

It is curious that the first allusion to the above-mentioned compromise was made by former U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger in his recent testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It is curious because the administration justifies the deal with references to "promises" made by the Nixon and Ford administrations.

The new compromise was explained to senators by Secretary of State Vance. Then they received the text of a letter from Defense Secretary Brown, setting forth the details of the new compromise deal. In addition to extra aircraft for Israel, it provided for certain guarantees to limit the use of the fighters by Saudi Arabia. The senators were then addressed by other members of the administration. Indoctrination took place literally around the clock. The reason for this indoctrination was not the senators' reluctance to "pump" weapons into a dangerously explosive region. It was simply that Israel's supporters did not want Saudi Arabia and Egypt to receive fighters.

This is the procedure for the aircraft bill's passage through congress. If the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had adopted a resolution against the sale of weapons, the bill would have been voted on by the entire Senate, where, according to preliminary estimates, it would have passed. This version did not suit the administration because it did not wish, as the local press wrote, to "inflict a moral defeat on the Israeli lobby" (how tactful the arms dealers are when it is a question of Tel Aviv's "prestige!").

Voting took place in the committee on 11 May (a symbolic coincidence--on that day a grandiose military parade was organized in Jerusalem in honor of the 30th anniversary of the formation of the state of Israel, and U.S. F-15 fighters roared over the heads of the participants in the parade).

The senators' votes were equally divided: eight for the bill, eight against. Thus, the resolution rejecting the "package deal" did not pass the committee. Nevertheless, a decision was adopted at the time to discuss it in the full Senate. The Senate debate on 15 May will be entirely devoted to this. It is expected that the administration and its allies in Congress may undertake a turning maneuver [obkhodnyy maneuver]: the Senate will not vote for the bill but postpone its discussion indefinitely. In fact, this will signify the deal's ratification. According to procedural norms, the bill will become effective unless rejected within 30 days by both houses of Congress--the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Therefore, the Israeli aggressors are receiving additional lethal weapons--for faithful service to Washington's imperialist aims in the Near East; Saudi Arabia--for holding back oil prices and progress in the Arab world, not to mention investing petrodollars in U.S. economy and banks; and Egypt--for its splittist, separatist policy and its capitulatory conduct.

The open "package" is a dangerous Pandora's box. The forces of aggression and reaction gain from it, while the cause of peace, security and a just settlement in the Near East loses.

BERGLAND MEETS KIRILLIN, MESYATS, LEAVES USSR

LD1711l0Y Moscow in English to North America 0001 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] The Soviet deputy prime minister, Vladimir Kirillin, who is also the chairman of the National Committee for Science and Technology, has received Secretary for Agriculture Robert Bergland, who is visiting the Soviet Union at the invitation of the government.

Kirillin and Bergland discussed prospects for cooperation in science and technology. Robert Bergland has also met with his counterpart, Valentin Mesyats. The two sides noted that both countries would like to advance cooperation in farming. At both meetings Agriculture Secretary Bergland was accompanied by the ambassador to Moscow, Malcolm Toon. Robert Bergland has left the Soviet Union.

TASS CITES NEW YORKER INTERVIEW WITH BRZEZINSKI

LD1719ZOY Moscow TASS in English 1857 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] New York, May 17, TASS--The magazine NEW YORKER has published an article outlining some political views by the Assistant to the U.S. President for National Security Affairs Zbigniew Brzezinski. They are of certain interest because, as the authors of the article note, Brzezinski utilizes his access to the shaping of U.S. foreign policy with the aim of the adoption of such decisions which "accord with his anti-Soviet views."

Brzezinski's political stand, the article says, rests on his evaluation of events in the world in terms of rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. He is often prone to take steps with the aim of testing the Soviet Union, NEW YORKER writes, and usually his first reaction has an anti-Soviet ring.

In pursuing this course, NEW YORKER continues, the presidential assistant counts on the "Chinese card". He tries to oppose China to the Soviet Union in order to gain political capital for the United States.

Brzezinski, the article says, tries artificially to link Soviet-American relations, in particular the current Soviet-American Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, with unrelated problems. As to these talks concretely, the magazine writes, Brzezinski, as it is told by well informed people, regards the conclusion of the SALT agreement not as an end in itself but as a means of pressuring Russians in order to make them do what America needs.

He wants the United States to conduct a more aggressive policy in Africa, in the Middle East and in those West European countries where the influence of progressive forces is mounting. He wants a further expansion of subversive CIA activities against sovereign states. He apparently believes, the article stresses, that the United States should have the possibility to use most diverse methods in order to influence development in other countries.

It is Brzezinski, the article says, who is the true author of a recent statement by the U.S. President that the United States is perfecting and will retain air, ground, and naval forces intended for rapid redeployment in order to ensure American interests throughout the globe. In an interview to the author of the article Brzezinski said that the United States could resort to resolute action, including interference, should it fail to achieve the same aim indirectly.

Lately, the magazine explains, Brzezinski is ever more openly preaching the doctrine of rivalry between "two great powers" against the background of anarchy and social division in nonaligned countries, which inevitably is to bring about a clash somewhere.

The ideas preached by Brzezinski, the magazine writes, cause the concern of White House staff members. Their experience tells them that when somebody tries to advertise himself as a person insisting on "firmness" in respect to communists this may be motivated by personal political interests.

HOUSE VOTES AGAINST NEUTRON BOMB FINANCE AMENDMENT

LD181218Y Moscow TASS in English 1200 GMT 18 May 78 LD

[Text] Washington, May 18, TASS--Contrary to the demands of the American and world public, the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress has refused to ban the manufacture of the neutron bomb. By a majority vote the congressmen turned down the amendment prohibiting the financing of the programme of preparations for the manufacture and development of the neutron weapon.

This amendment was submitted by 28 members of the House of Representatives to the budget bill of the U.S. Ministry of Energetics [Department of Energy], within which allocations for the development of this monstrous weapon are "concealed". As stressed by the authors of the amendment T. Weiss, J. Conyers, R. Dellums and others, the decision of President J. Carter to defer the production of the neutron bomb did not signify its complete renunciation. It was pointed out in their appeal to the Congress that this weapon may bring the United States to the brink of a nuclear catastrophe, whip up the nuclear arms race, increase the probability of a nuclear war.

However, the majority of the House of Representatives did not heed the calls for reason and political responsibility. The placemen of the military-industrial complex tried to justify their stand by references to the need of giving the President "a free hand" in the matter of repulsing the mythical "Soviet military threat" in Europe.

Replying to such "arguments", P. Simon, member of the House of Representatives, pointed to the need of displaying restraint in order to curb the dangerous arms race. He said that it should be hoped that some day the U.S. would become reasonable and declare that the creation of new annihilation systems was not the course by which the country wished to adhere.

PENTAGON PROPOSES $2.2 BILLION ARMS DEAL WITH JAPAN

LD171344Y Moscow TASS in English 1333 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Washington, May 17, TASS--While advocating in words the need to reduce the deliveries of arms abroad, the U.S. Government continues increasing arms exports.

Scarcely had U.S. Congress completed the consideration of the White House proposal on the delivery of a large batch of U.S. aircraft to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, than the Pentagon submitted a new proposal to the legislators for discussion: on the sale of a hundred F-15 fighters and 45 P-3C and anti-submarine aircraft to Japan. The cost of planned deliveries is estimated at 2.2 billion dollars. As observers note, this is the biggest military deal between the USA and Japan in the entire history of their relations.

PENTAGON BEHIND RECENT U.S. RETRACTION ON KOREAN PULLOUT

LD161545Y Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 May 78 p 3 LD

[Kretov article: "Who Benefits by This?"]

[Text] Appearing recently before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Defense Secretary H. Brown confirmed that the U.S. administration has revised, in the direction of a postponement, its plans for the withdrawing U.S. troops from South Korea. Earlier President Carter himself announced that only one American combat battalion would be withdrawn by the fall instead of the three originally proposed. Moreover, this symbolic withdrawal will be accompanied by massive deliveries of military equipment to Pak Chong-hui's regime. The United States will supply Seoul with fighters, warships, tanks and missiles [paragraph continues]

The South Korean Army will be given American material worth a total of more than $800 million, including M-48 tanks, "Honest John" missiles, armored transports, trucks and observation and communications facilities.

Lately not only American politicians but also Pentagon generals have been issuing increasingly frequent calls for the further buildup of American military might in the southern part of the Korean peninsula. General Vessey, commander of U.S. forces in South Korea, recently again attacked the withdrawal of U.S. ground forces from South Korea. And he repeated the same old ramshackle arguments about the threat from the north and about "the peacemaking mission of the American soldiers in the Korean peninsula."

The general is not original. His predecessors repeatedly put forward similar "arguments." But the facts attest to something else. It was the American military, fulfilling its "peacemaking mission," which in June 1950 unleashed from its South Korean bridgehead the aggression against the DPRK, a sovereign socialist state. The outcome of this is well known.

Since then almost 25 years have passed, but there is no lasting peace today on the Korean peninsula. And the main reason for this is the continuing presence of American troops in South Korea; the existence of many dozens of Pentagon military bases and the support by American bayonets of the antipopular Seoul regime. And in the language of Vessey and his "colleagues" all this is called the "U.S. peacemaking mission in South Korea."

Nor does the argument of the mythical threat from the north stand up to criticism. It is well known that no one has any intention of attacking South Korea. The DPRK Government has put forward a clear and constructive program for the unification of the country on a peaceful and democratic basis. It has proposed that political dialog be initiated between representatives of north and south regarding ways of overcoming the artificial division of the country through the efforts of the Koreans themselves, without any external interference. However, it is certainly the normalization of the situation on the Korean peninsula which does not suit Seoul and its patrons across the ocean. The Pentagon has no intention of leaving South Korea which has been and remains an important Pentagon military-strategic bridghead in Asia, and Pak Chong-hui's regime is afraid of the prospect of losing the American support on which it depends.

As is evident, the arguments of the American "hawks" pursue just one aim: preventing the relaxation of tension on the Korean peninsula and complicating still further the situation in this region of the Far East. Who benefits by this? Primarily the U.S. military-industrial complex. It is precisely under pressure from it that the U.S. Senate committee and also the House Armed Services Committee have adopted a dual position: On the one hand they have approved the plan for the withdrawal of American troops, and on the other they have provided loopholes so that these troops can remain in South Korea for an unlimited time. But for long?

MONDALE TRIP HERALDS 'NOTORIOUS RETURN TO ASIA'

LD1614O7Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 May 78 p 5 LD

[Oleg Skalkin article: "Showing the Flag"]

[Text] Sydney--U.S. Vice President Mondale has completed his 12-day tour of the capitals of the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand. Explaining the purpose of this tour, the U.S. press indicates that it was aimed at demonstrating Washington's special attention to the situation in the Indian and Pacific oceans.

The nature of this attention is seen by the tour itself, which was a flag-waving exercise. At each stop military questions invariably predominated the talks--questions without which, apparently, Washington cannot today conceive of U.S. policy in Asia and the regions adjacent to it. In the Philippines, for instances, there was a debate on the terms by which the Pentagon remains on its two largest bases in Asia--Clark and Subic Bay. In Thailand and Indonesia the question of deliveries of U.S. fighters and other military hardware was examined.

One definite tendency in the notorious "return to Asia" the American vice president spoke of during his trip is the U.S. desire to turn the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) into a direct military alliance collaborating with the ANZUS bloc. As is known, Australia and New Zealand, together with the United States, belong to the latter group. It was announced at Canberra that as of now the ANZUS sphere of activity extends not only to the Pacific, as before, but also the Indian Ocean.

The highest Pentagon officials, NEWSWEEK writes in a review of the president's tour, note "with a feeling of relief" that the Carter administration sees the Asian area above all as a strategic region. At least 140,000 servicemen and a large quantity of hardware are permanently located on the numerous U.S. bridgeheads in Asia.

Economic factors also play a considerable role in this. Suffice it to say that about 25 percent of U.S. exports come to Asian markets. In a decade (1965-1975) U.S. private investments in the region have increased from $1 billion to $5 billion.

Talks on a U.S. "return" to Asia, accompanied by various kinds of military preparations, cannot fail to arouse anxiety among Asian peoples. Such a policy--and this was again demonstrated by Mondale's trip--has nothing in common with the genuine interests of the peoples of Asia and the Pacific, with their desire for economic and social progress and the strengthening of national independence, or with life in an atmosphere of international detente, lasting peace and security.

BIRYUKOV CRITICIZES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY

LD180050Y Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2100 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Commentary by TASS observer Vadim Biryukov]

[Text] On 1 April--and, mark you, it was not supposed to be a joke--the United States Information Agency was renamed the International Communication Agency, ICA. Shortly afterwards, however, a UNITED PRESS report said the new name no longer appealed to the lawmakers. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee even started a discussion on the subject. The new name was described as vague and confusing. The strongest opposition came from a senator who expressed apprehension that the abbreviation, the CIA.

Now what lies behind this fanaticism in the Senate's debate?

When the reorganization of the information agency was in the preparatory stages, its initiators had to admit that the Vietnam adventure, Watergate and the atmosphere of violence, racism and harrassment by the secret services has brought the United States prestige to a new low level. The country's main propaganda agency, which spends more than $4 billion, failed in its efforts to create a favorable image of America.

The result was a worldwide crisis of conference in the ideological product with the USA trademark. But these obvious facts were not reflected in the reform of the United States propaganda service there. The main guidelines remain unchanged: the struggle against socialism, against the national liberation movement and progress, and against alleged communist penetration. Instead of taking into consideration the predominant trend on the world scene--the relaxation of tension--American policymakers in fact facelifted the information agency, seeking new forms of and methods of ideological expansion and more sophisticated camouflage for future psychological warfare.

Now one of the first rules of camouflage is to change the name. Hence the decision to sacrifice the name USIA and hence the appearance of the International Communications Agency, ICA, which Washington now fears might make the world public think it was the CIA, only with the letters mixed up. But of course it is not only that people might think it was the CIA when it was really the ICA, just because the two abbreviations are so easily confused. The fact is the public of many countries is well aware of the numerous exposures of the CIA's unlawful criminal operations carried out using as a coverup the American propaganda services.

CIA USED FORMER NAZIS RESIDING IN U.S. AS AGENTS

LD172136Y Moscow TASS in English 2120 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Washington, May 17 TASS--The Nazi war criminals who succeeded in escaping just punishment after the Second Word War have found refuge and protection at the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

As is noted in the report by the General Accounting Office, the CIA used Nazi war criminals in its clandestine operations. At least 22 high ranking Nazis were for many years regular agents of the CIA, collected intelligence data and took part in secret subversive actions, in the first place against the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

Trying to protect the Nazi butchers from possible prosecution, the U.S. espionage department impeded in every way possible any actions by the authorities for investigation into their criminal past. The report notes that 111 persons, who emigrated to the USA after the Second World War and are guilty of preparating war crimes, are now resident in the United States.

The CIA not only patronized the Nazi criminals who came to live in the USA, but also helped some of them to avoid justice.

As seen from the report, not only intelligence services displayed solicitude for the war criminals. Other government institutions, including the FBI, the U.S. State Department and the Pentagon used the services of Nazi cutthroats on different occasions.

NCNA PUBLISHES USSR 12 MAY NOTE TO PRC EMBASSY

OW171400Y Peking NCNA Domestic Service in Chinese 1200 GMT 17 May 78 OW

[Soviet Foreign Ministry 12 May note to PRC Embassy in Moscow]

[Text] The following is the reply from the Foreign Ministry of the USSR to the 11 May note of the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China:

Concerning the unintentional incident that occurred on the border in the Dalnerechenska (Iman) area, explanations were made by the representatives of the Soviet border defense forces while meeting the representatives of Chinese border defense forces on 10 and 12 May. In search of a dangerous armed criminal around midnight on 8 May 1978, a group of Soviet naval border guards believed the Chinese river bank to be the Soviet Union's Krestovskiy Island, landed there and entered into the territory of the People's Republic of China. When they discovered their own position from Chinese citizens, they returned to the Soviet bank of the Wusuli River.

The Soviet side cannot agree with the allegation as indicated by the PRC Foreign Ministry in its note, because the incident was not intentional as stated by the Chinese side, nor was it a military provocation. The Soviet border guards neither used force of arms nor opened fire on Chinese citizens. The Soviet military boats did not intrude into Chinese territorial waters.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry has been authorized to express regret to the Chinese side over the incident. The Soviet authorities concerned are conducting an investigation, and those who are responsible for this incident will be punished.

The Foreign Ministry of the USSR (seal)

Moscow, 12 May 1978.

WESTERN ARMS SUPPLIES TO PRC SEEK WEAKENED USSR

LD171710Y Moscow TASS in English 1655 GMT 17 May 78 LD

["Peking: Arms and Politics"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, May 17, TASS--"Some people in the United States and other NATO countries obviously believe that the Chinese nuclear weapons can be 'programmed' once and for all just in one geographical direction. These gentlemen risk to encounter unexpected results of their efforts," writes the IZVESTIYA political commentator Vikentiy Matveyev.

"None of the foreign visitors now invited to Peking are pampered so much as the envoys of the military-industrial concerns of NATO countries and also of Japan. Such trips by representatives of the West's military business to the PRC have noticeably intensified in recent times and this is connected with the Peking leadership's policy of further building up the PRC's armed forces and of their accelerated modernisation. Four conferences devoted to this question were held in Peking last year, and already two conferences this year."

"The recently concluded trade agreement between the PRC and the Common Market testifies to the Chinese leadership's intention to count on the NATO arsenals."

"Lately," the commentator continues, "some high-placed Japanese representatives began frequenting the PRC and discussing possibilities of delivering Japanese military hardware and armaments in the apparent belief that such deliveries will serve militaristic aims other than those directed against Japan. Similar myopic-cynical hopes are being nourished by some other visitors to the PRC from the arms manufacturers in the West."

"Of course, we are dealing here not only with selfish material motivations. Grim lessons of history show what a baleful role was played in the pre-war period by the policy of Western powers of egging on the military machine of Germany, Japan and Italy against the Soviet Union.

"All historical parallels naturally are relevant. The situation in the world now substantially differs from what it was in the pre-war period. But, just as then, the present intentions of the initiators of the course of using those who flaunt their anti-Sovietism as a shock force against the USSR and other socialist countries are fraught with most serious consequences for the interests of universal peace."

"Chinese arms are already being used, are being employed in a number of areas of the world, causing dangerous tension, leading to bloodshed and playing into the hand of sworn enemies of the freedom and independence of the peoples", the commentator writes further.

"Chinese arms were displayed in Luanda, the capital of Angola, alongside arms bearing the trade mark of NATO countries after they were captured by the people's liberation forces of Angola in battles against interventionists and their hirelings".

"Wide publicity was received also by facts proving the extensive military and material support given by Peking to the Armed Forces of Kampuchea in its conflict with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam".

"Deliveries of Chinese arms sustain acute tension in that area of Indochina, and procrastinate the conflict. Judging by everything, the Peking leaders believe that the preservation of such an abnormal situation is in the interests of the PRC. Their behavior is similar in respect of the events in the area of the Horn of Africa".

"It is not surprising", the IZVESTIYA commentator continues, "that the nagging calls by Chinese propaganda addressed to countries of Western Europe, Southeast Asia and Africa, and couched in a very rude anti-Soviet spirit, are receiving an increasingly negative reception on the part of governments, politicians and the public realising the incendiary nature of these statements".

"The Soviet Union's readiness to normalise relations with the PRC on principles of peaceful coexistence, with account for mutual interests and without any whatsoever preliminary conditions finds its practical expression in a number of concrete initiatives and proposals addressed to the Chinese side, including the recent message of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet sent on the eve of the session of the National People's Congress to its Standing Committee. But this time, too, the Chinese side responded negatively. Everything shows that some people in China are suited more by tension in Soviet-Chinese relations, by the ballooning of all sorts of stories about the 'threat from the north' than by a normalisation of relations with our country".

"Hopes that vicious anti-Sovietism will bring its authors the desired material and political dividends from the international reaction are faulty at their root. History has long passed final and irreversible sentence on such a policy.

The new-fangled instigators of a crusade against the USSR and other socialist countries will get something from the camp of reaction in the form of payment and encouragement, but not more. The closer they try to bind themselves to the tycoons of capital the more unenviable will be the position in which they will find themselves".

"On the other hand, attempts by extreme forces of international reaction to turn the Chinese people into an obedient tool for struggle against the Soviet Union, the entire socialist community, the world communist and workers' movement have no future and cannot have any future. The ineluctable logic of historical development is stronger than any dirty combinations and strategems".

PRC HEGEMONISM CAUSES ALARM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

LD161325Y Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 14 May 78 p 3 LD

[R. Tikhonov commentary: "Valid Concern"]

[Text] The Peking leadership recently began a concentrated "diplomatic offensive" against the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN]--a political and economic group that unites Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines. The Chinese initiative has caused concern among the ASEAN member countries, which are the target of incessant subversive actions inspired by Peking.

In pursuing its hegemonist aspirations, the Chinese leadership would like to place Southeast Asia, which occupies an important strategic position and possesses very rich natural resources, under its control and at the same time undermine the Asian states friendly relations with the socialist countries.

Commenting on Peking's intentions, Singapore's STRAITS TIMES pointed out that such initiatives should be considered, primarily, as a manifestation of the PRC's anti-Soviet policy. In an article entitled "We Say No in Answer to Peking." the newspaper emphasized that Southeast Asian states must exercise caution in responding to China's provocative solicitations. The Indonesian Government has flatly rejected Peking's plans to drag the ASEAN countries into the orbit of their anti-Soviet policy.

The public and government circles in Southeast Asia realize that the Peking leadership, which talks profusely about "peace" and "friendship," has not abandoned its hegemonist plans toward developing states but has actually accelerated its penetration of this region. Peking's actions therefore arouse concern and alarm here.

Short-sighted Policy

LD171736Y Moscow TASS in English 1714 GMT 17 May 78 LD

["Peking's Expansionist Course"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, May 17, TASS--TASS political commentator Mikhail Yakovlev writes:

A decision of the Military Council of the Communist Party of China CC has been published in Peking. Officially, it deals with the question of "stepping up the education and training of troops." However, its essence goes far beyond this framework. It is maintained once again that "a war is about to flare up." And the conclusion is drawn that, just as the army, the entire country ought to "be prepared to fight", to "fulfil all and every kind of combat tasks."

The document appeared amidst stepped up militaristic propaganda. A course towards war has been proclaimed as a long-range state policy. Hua Kuo-feng insisted: "We must certainly be prepared for war, the moment must not be missed, time is short." The present Chinese leaders openly subordinate the economic development of the PRC to the needs of building up its military potential. One of them, the defence [as received] Yeh Chien-ing, stated frankly: "We must speed up the development of the basic industries with emphasis on steel production in order to create a powerful base for our defence industry and achieve its great progress."

Direct military spending at present exceeds 40 per cent of the PRC's state budget's allocations. The bulk of this sum goes to build up the nuclear missile potential. Peking propaganda is constantly instilling in the Chinese population the thought of the need to further increase military spending.

Today, just as Mao's time, measures are being carried out to turn the country into a war camp, whose inmates must be "rust-free screws" and "steel soldiers", all fitting a standard, and obediently carrying out any orders. The army must be an object of emulation by all. A Chinese sports paper carried the other day a joint instruction of the Ministry of Education, the physical culture and sports committee and the Ministry of Public Health on sports activities at educational establishments. The instruction prescribes to combine such activities "with learning from the Peoples Liberation Army of China and making preparations for war." It is suggested, in particular, "to take up marching drill" and to "make marches with full combat kit," etc. Rather than launch housing construction throughout the country, the building of underground shelters and various military facilities goes on. Persons recently back from the PRC report that one comes across underground bomb shelters practically everywhere in the cities. The Kharbin City CPC Committee, according to the New China News Agency, stated at a conference on "housing construction" that the "successful fulfilment of the engineering construction work is important for combat operations in the city." In other words, what they discussed was the construction of bunkers, not housing.

Striving to create a powerful military potential in a short time, Peking is on the look-out for allies in capitalist countries ready to supply it with modern weapons and the latest technology in the military field. According to the American weekly magazine NEWSWEEK Peking emissaries travelling around West European countries and Japan carry a list of about 5,000 designations of latest weaponry. Some Western circles are helping the Peking militarists to swing the flywheel of the arms race. A report in the Washington POST says China acquired in France a large consignment of anti-tank missiles "hot" [as received]. Put on record are China's attempts to get a licence for the manufacture of Mirage fighter planes. The PRC bought anti-tank helicopters in West Germany and is seeking a permit for buying the Leopard tank.

The Peking leaders are trying to justify their war preparations by the non-existent "Soviet threat." Anti-Sovietism, however, is not the only direction in Peking's global policy, even if it does seem prominent. Anti-Sovietism is merely a means of attaining its strategic goals, such as the establishment of great Han hegemony in Asia, and eventually in the world. Chinese militarism is a threat to all countries and peoples, neighbours in particular, as testified by facts. People still remember the capture by China of part of Indian territory in the Himalayas, the Paracell Islands and the Sprately Islands. Fresh in memory is the recent provocative sally of Chinese "fishermen" in the region of Senkaku Islands, as well as constant Chinese support for the rebels in Burma, Malaysia, on the Philippines, the creation of Peking's fifth column in different countries of the world--China's multimillion emigration. To help build up Chinese militarism is a short-sighted policy, to say the least.

DJURANOVIC SPEAKS ON REELECTION AS GOVERNMENT LEADER

LD171700Y Moscow TASS in English 1614 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Belgrade, May 17, TASS--Veselin Djuranovic, the president of the Federal Executive Council of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, who was reelected yesterday as the head of the Yugoslav Government, addressed a session of the Federal Assembly of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of the new convocation. Our country is faced with complex and important tasks whose main contents is the struggle for complete implemention of the provisions of the constitution and other laws adopted by the Federal Assembly of the previous convocation. The decisions of the coming Eleventh Congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia will give a new, strong impetus for their ever more successful implementation. The head of the Yugoslav Government stressed that a new five-year plan of Yugoslavia's social and economic development for 1981-1985 must be drawn up. Touching upon the fulfillment of the current five-year plan, Veselin Djuranovic emphasized the positive results in increasing industrial and agricultural output, enhancing the population's employment and slowing down the rates of inflation. Further consolidation of the country's independence and security, efforts to preserve and consolidate peace and ensure peaceful solution of topical international problems and development of equal international cooperation under the principles of active peaceful coexistence will remain the main directions in Yugoslavia's foreign political activity in the coming period, said the president of the Federal Executive Council.

Yugoslavia is developing bilateral relations with all countries regardless of their social and economic systems, V. Djuranovic said. It pays particular attention to further development of all-round cooperation with neighbouring countries, which is an important trend in Yugoslavia's foreign policy. Yugoslavia's international situation is durable and stable. Our successes in the sphere of the home and foreign policy are inseparably connected with the tireless activity of Josip Broz Tito, the speaker stressed. Touching upon questions of the international situation Veselin Djuranovic stressed that Yugoslavia will continue declaring in favour of the process of detente becoming a lasting one and being spread to all areas of the world and encompassing all major international problems. The inclusion of areas of the Mediterranean in the process of detente is also important for Yugoslavia as a Mediterranean country, he said. There are particularly important tasks in the sphere of ending the arms race, which is one of the most difficult international problems, the head of the government said. Yugoslavia together with non-aligned and developing countries and other states will do everything to ensure that the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament is as successful as possible.

POLAND, USSR SIGN ACCORD ON BALTIC, BARENTS SEA FISHING

LD161529Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 78 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[Text] TASS--In Moscow 11 May A.A. Ishkov, USSR minister of the fish industry, and J. Olszewski, Polish minister of foreign trade and the maritime economy, signed long-term agreements on mutual relations in Baltic sea fishing and on fishing in the areas of the Barents Sea adjoining the USSR. These agreements are the basis for the further development of the cooperation between the USSR and Poland in the fishery area. A conversation took place the same day between N.S. Patolichev, USSR minister of foreign trade, and J. Olszewski. Questions of the trade and economic relations between the two countries were discussed.

CURRENT, PLANNED NATO MEETINGS AIM TO ACCELERATE ARMS RACE

LD171116Y Moscow TASS in English 1030 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Brussels, May 17, TASS--TASS correspondent Albert Balebanov reports: The spring "Atlantic sessions" opened today in the Brussels' suburb of Evere with a one-day meeting of the NATO Eurogroup. The Eurogroup includes defence ministers of all European NATO member-countries, except for France and Greece, which, as is known, withdrew from the military organization of the bloc. A meeting of the chiefs of the general staffs of NATO countries is also held here today and a session of the Defence Planning Committee of the North Atlantic bloc will be held on May 18-19. A session of the NATO Council at the level of heads of state and government is planned to be held in Washington on May 30-31.

All the meetings in Evere, just as the meeting to take place in Washington, are aimed at stepping up the arms race. This is shown clearly by the very agenda of the meetings. The items discussed are connected with further increase of the military potential of the North Atlantic bloc.

As the NOUVELLE ATLANTIQUE bulletin reports, the defence ministers will discuss a long-term NATO defence programme, measures to heighten military preparedness, including the plan of deploying new types of armaments in strategically important areas and questions of arms purchases. The United States is pressing on West European partners to make them increase the purchases of U.S.-made armaments.

For this purpose, the Pentagon is exerting pressure on European NATO countries trying to make them buy from the United States the Airborne Warning and Control System AWACS. The discussion of problems of standardization and interchangeability of armaments and military equipment in the NATO framework also reflects the Pentagon's striving to gear Western Europe more securely to the United States war machine.

The meetings in Evere are held to the accompaniment of cannonade: The NATO exercises "Ardent Ground" are held these days in Belgium. The naval NATO exercises in the Atlantic code-named "Open Gate" ended early in May and large exercises of NATO land forces in Norway's territory code-named "Arctic Express" were held somewhat earlier.

Just as in the previous years, the plans of escalation of the arms race are covered up with the propaganga hullaballoo about the alleged "Soviet military menace".

But hardly anyone believes in this non-existent menace now. This is shown by the protests against NATO's dangerous plans of production and deployment of new types of mass destruction weapons, the protests that are spreading all over the world.

The struggle for disarmament, against the arms race has now become the main problem of international relations. This conclusion was made here recently by participants in a meeting of the International Committee for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The plans of the North Atlantic alliance to speed up the arms race contradict these demands. They only heighten tensions and increase the risk of nuclear war.

PRAVDA EDITORIAL HAILS RESULTS OF BREZHNEV FRG VISIT

LD171021Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 May 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "In the Interests of Peace and Neighborliness"]

[Text] The beginning of May was marked by a portentous event of international import. Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, paid an official visit to the FRG. [paragraph continues]

Soviet people, broad public circles throughout the world, politicians and the mass media of various countries followed the Bonn talks with unremitting attention and are now continuing to analyze in depth and comment on their results and the documents signed.

The CPSU Central Committee Politburo, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and USSR Council of Ministers wholly and fully approve the work done by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev during his visit to the FRG and the results of this politically important visit. As the document published yesterday notes, the talks with leading FRG state and public figures on a broad range of European and international problems and questions of bilateral relations and the documents adopted as a result of the visit represent a major step in advancing the cause of detente, neighborliness and the consolidation of peace.

The aim of the visit, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev noted, consisted in "determining, on the basis of the 1970 Moscow treaty and with the FRG leaders, the main directions in the years to come of further cooperation between our countries in bilateral matters, and also in outlining ways of interaction to consolidate peace and international detente."

Fruitful work was done during the visit. A joint declaration and an agreement on the development and deepening of long-term cooperation between the USSR and FRG in the field of the economy and industry were signed. These documents will impart great stability and scope to mutual relations and will make it possible to reinforce and deepen the positive processes which began thanks to the conclusion of the Moscow treaty on 12 August 1970. Its fundamental importance for relations between the two states has been and remains one of the determining factors in insuring detente and in strengthening European security.

Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's visit to the FRG was yet another sizable contribution to the implementation of the foreign policy course of the 25th CPSU Congress and the Leninist peace-loving policy of our party and state. It marks a stage in the development of political detente and in the creation of the prerequisites for its extension to the military sphere.

In examining the main problems of the present situation in Europe and international development as a whole the sides stated that "peace was and remains the highest value toward which their political actions, as indeed the efforts of other states, should be oriented." It was noted that, despite the existence in Europe of diverse political, economic and social systems, tangible progress had been achieved in strengthening mutual trust and neighborliness. The only possible means of further strengthening them is, according to the firm conviction of the sides, the steady development of detente. The joint declaration enshrines the will to broaden and deepen the detente process and render it progressive and steadfast.

During the Bonn talks the special role of the all-European conference in improving the atmosphere on the continent was stressed. The Belgrade meeting confirmed the intention of the states which took part in the Helsinki conference to continue the detente process in accordance with the decisions taken there. It is now important to achieve the full implementation in a unilateral, bilateral and multilateral sense of all the provisions of the conference's final act by signatory states.

Further detente in Europe depends to a great extent on progress in resolving the urgent, immediate questions of military detente. Therefore the main thing now is to adopt practical measures to reduce and curb the arms race.

At the talks there was a detailed exchange of opinions on the questions of arms limitation, disarmament and also on the efforts aimed at stopping the arms race. The mutual determination was expressed to use all available means in the interests of real movement toward the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control which would embrace both nuclear wapons and conventional types of weapons. The sides expressed their readiness to promote the achievements of positive results at the forthcoming UN General Assembly special session on questions of disarmament.

The results of the visit are also of great importance in the economic sphere. The expansion of trade, industrial and technical cooperation between the USSR and FRG on the basis of the documents signed will substantially strengthen the material foundation of detente and will promote the systematic steady and mutually advantageous growth of ties neighborly ties for the good of the working people of both countries.

The new level of mutual understanding and cooperation reached as a result of the talks between the Soviet and German leaders fully correspond to the determining tendencies of the development of the contemporary international situation. Both sides stated their intention of consistently continuing an active and businesslike exchange of opinions in order to expand the bases of agreement.

Having discussed the results of the Bonn talks, which passed in a spirit of mutual understanding, frankness and growing trust, the Soviet leadership expressed its firm desire to continue to act in this spirit. That is to say, to raise the quality and level of bilateral relations and to transform them into a factor of stability and neighborliness in Europe and throughout the world.

Our people, the working people of the fraternal socialist countries and peace-loving, progressive forces throughout the world assess highly the tremendous work done by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev to insure the success of the visit, which was rich in political content. By unanimously approving its results Soviet people are declaring their undivided support of the Leninist foreign policy of our dear party which is constently defending the cause of peace on earth.

CPSU CC GREETS 11th CONGRESS OF SWISS LABOR PARTY

LD161339Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 May 78 p 1 LD

[Text] To the 11th Congress of the Swiss Labor Party.

Dear Comrades,

The CPSU Central Committee sends ardent fraternal greetings to the delegates of the 11th Congress of the Swiss Labor Party and sincere wishes for success in the work of the congress.

Soviet communist know the consistent struggle for the pressing requirements of the working class and the social and democratic rights of the working people which your party is waging. Reflecting the national interests of its country, it is making a great contribution to the struggle to deepen detente and stop the arms race and is in favor of Switzerland's active participation in insuring peace and security on the European Continent on the basis of its traditional policy of neutrality and of Soviet and Swiss friendship.

Nowadays the international solidarity of the working people, especially their vanguard force--the communist parties--is of tremendous importance for success in the struggle against the arms race and the danger of nuclear war and for world social progress. Firmly supporting the ideas and conclusions of the Berlin conference of communist and workers parties, the Swiss Labor Party upholds the solidarity of the international communist movement on the principles of Marxism-Leninism, advocates active comradely ties and international solidarity among communist parties and struggles against anticommunism and anti-Sovietism and against the various attempts to undermine or weaken the positions of socialism.

The CPSU will continue to do everything possible to strengthen fraternal relations with the Swiss Labor Party.

We wish you, dear comrades, the further consolidation of the ranks of the Swiss Labor Party and its ties with the masses and new successes in rallying the working people of your country to the struggle for the great ideals of democracy, peace and socialism.

Long live the Swiss Labor Party!

Long live international communist solidarity!

Long live Marxism-Leninism!

[Signed] CPSU Central Committee 14 May

UK MP'S PROPOSAL FOR ALLIANCE WITH PEKING PROVOCATIVE

LD172328Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1642 GMT 17 May 78 LD

["Provocative Position"--TASS headline]

[Text] Paris--A meeting of the Central Affairs Committee of the West European Union (WEU)--the closed military-political grouping of seven Western European states--has been held here.

A report entitled "The Role of China with Regard to the System of European Security" was made at the meeting by British Conservative MP F. Bennet. His speech was [words indistinct] abounded in slanderous attacks about the foreign policy of the USSR and other countries of the socialist community.

Bennet also made use of the rostrum of the WEU to propagandize the Maoist foreign policy course and even found "a complete coincidence" in the views and interests of China and Western Europe in "the sphere of international security."

The British Tory called for the "unification of the forces of Western Europe and Peking" on an anti-Soviet foundation and for the Maoists to be used to "effectively resist" the USSR. For this, in Bennet's opinion, it is essential first of all to broaden military cooperation between the West and Peking and to raise the latter's military potential.

It is known that the military-industrial monopolies of the West European countries, including France, are already supplying or are holding talks on deliveries of modern weapons and military equipment to China. A few days ago, as the Washington POST reported, a Chinese delegation which visited Paris signed an agreement on acquiring a major consignment of French "hot" antitank missiles and this purchase was called a "major deal" by Peking in acquiring weapons in the West.

The Chinese visitors, who are at the present time in several European countries, are at once also showing increased interest in other types of missiles, and also in the latest models of aircraft and helicopters.

In view of all of this, the proposals by the representative of the British Conservatives on "military friendship" with Peking were so frankly militaristic in character that they aroused embarrassment even among many members of the WEU itself. Some of them openly described these proposals as "provocative."

The participants in the meeting adopted draft recommendations which are to be finally approved in June. They toned down to a certain extent some of the points of Bennet's report and removed the grosser anti-Soviet fabrications.

The essence of the recommendations, however, remained the same, although this time it is put in a more veiled way. There are, by the way, quite enough fabrications in this report. Thus, in spite of well known facts it asserts that China is now, allegedly, "a factor for maintaining peace and security in the world." This, apparently, was necessary to justify the recommendation to the WEU member countries to help Peking in "the sphere of industrial technology," which means, in other words, an appeal to help the Maoists in the militarization of the economy and in the arms race.

It is no coincidence that the newspaper L'AURORE, which is well known for its adherence to the cold war, described the committee's conclusions as "a serious invitation" for an alliance between Peking and the West, for an alliance which, it admits, "would have been unthinkable" not so long ago.

In essence the position adopted by the committee of the WEU assembly is a deliberate and provocative demonstration of hostility toward the USSR and the other socialist states. The draft document adopted in Paris is in flagrant contradiction to the spirit and letter of many international treaties and agreements and primarily of the final act of the Helsinki European conference. It is clearly aimed at undermining the process of detente in Europe and beyond its boundaries.

FINNISH PRESIDENT RECEIVES SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER

LD162054Y Moscow TASS in English 2042 GMT 16 May 78 LD

[Text] Helsinki, May 16 TASS--President Urho Kaleva Kekkonen of Finland received today head of the Soviet Government delegation, USSR Foreign-Trade Minister Nikolay Patolichev currently on a visit here and had a talk with him. The meeting was held in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

FACTS CONTRADICT AS-SADAT'S VIEW OF U.S. POLICY

LD172000Y Moscow TASS in English 1555 GMT 17 May 78 LD

["Groundless Praises"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, May 17 TASS--TASS commentator Yuriy Tysovskiy writes:

President as-Sadat came out with a statement concerning the approval by the United States Congress of the package deal envsiaging deliveries of contemporary aircraft to three Middle East countries--Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. By the way, the word "contemporary" applies only to the aircraft that will be provided for Israel and Saudi Arabia, since Egypt will receive the obsolete F-5E planes.

Nevertheless, As-Sadat's statement is full of praise of the Middle East policy of the U.S. administration. According to him, this policy is aimed at the quest of a just solution of the Middle East problem, and the United States is called upon to play an important role in supporting peaceable efforts.

Such a view contradicts facts. It is obvious to everybody that Washington is, above all, concerned with protecting Israel's interests in the measure in which they meet its own long-term aims--to preserve control over the strategically important area of the Middle East, over sources of oil and routes of oil transportation in the Persian Gulf area. Over a long time, the U.S. administrations of Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter were advancing various concepts, at first of "stage-by-stage" diplomacy, later of "shuttle operations" and now of a "balanced approach" of the United States to the Middle East problem.

As a result, Egypt got back a small part of the Sinai occupied by Israel. But did this bring closer the solution of the Middle East problem which Arabs await? Things remained unchanged while Israel's position has been immeasurably strengthened during the time spent on procrastinations and delays.

As-Sadat asserts that Arabs received for the first time an opportunity of getting U.S. weapons that they need for "ensuring their own security." This is not true. Saudi Arabia is inundated with all kinds of armaments with the hallmark "made in the USA." At least five other Arab states, except for Egypt, receive military equipment from the United States.

And the pronouncements about ensuring Arabs' "security" hold no water since Arabs' security, as is known, is not threatened by anyone except Israel. And Washington supplies planes to Cairo and Riyadh not for the purpose of strengthening their security. They are meant, above all, for reinforcement of Arab reaction and are directed against progressive regimes of the Arab world. Besides that, the "gifts" of the White House to Egypt have the purpose to strengthen Cairo's resolve to continue along the road of separate agreements with Israel.

ISRAEL SEEN AS WINNER IN U.S. AIRCRAFT SALE

LD171650Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1230 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Senate decision to approve the Carter administration proposal to sell U.S. military aircraft to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt has prompted a number of comments.

The Washington POST stresses that for the first time in many years Israel has tasted defeat in its extremely important and significant struggle within the U.S. Congress. The U.S. newspaper refers to "objections" by Tel Aviv and pro-Israelis in the United States to President Carter's proposals. But is this true? Of course not. Here is why: Israel's so-called "defeat" has been expressed by the fact that Israel has obtained many more U.S. military aircraft than specified in the plan. We should like to point out that nearly half of the U.S. aid to the aggressor is given as a gift, while Saudi Arabia and Egypt will pay cash for the U.S. aircraft, an estimated several million dollars. This, to the empty Egyptian treasury, will be a very heavy burden.

The so-called Israeli defeat in the U.S. Congress, the Washington POST says, also is shown by the clear [word indistinct] by Riyadh, Cairo and even by Washington itself that the U.S. military aircraft will not be used against Israel under any circumstances.

The following question arises: Why is it that Saudi Arabia and Egypt are buying these very expensive aircraft? Official circles in the two Arab countries stress that they are essential for self-defense against the alleged danger from progressive states and from the mythical communist threat. It follows that the U.S. aircraft being purchased by Riyadh and Cairo will be used against those who actively and firmly support the just Arab cause and also against some Arab countries, including Libya, as happened last year when the Egyptian Air Force bombed Libyan targets. This means that the Israeli aggressor is the winner, not the loser. One must remember the statement by U.S. Secretary of State Vance when he said that the sale of U.S. military aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Egypt is compatible with Israel's higher interests; this means that it is compatible with the interests of the United States, for which Tel Aviv will continue to act as a tool to implement U.S. imperialism's neocolonialist policy in the Arab world.

NO SEPARATE APPROACH CAN RESOLVE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM

LD1410147 Moscow TASS in English 0717 GMT 14 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, May 14, TASS--No separate approach can resolve the Middle East problem, it only encourages the Israeli aggressor to fresh adventures, PRAVDA notes.

The newspaper underscores that the Israeli-Egyptian separate talks have served no useful purpose either for the Arabs, or for a general peaceful settlement in the Middle East. Moreover, Israel has increased during that time its occupation zone by adding Lebanon's south to it and has actually gone back on its promise to return Sinai to Egypt. Events have shown the invariability of Israeli expansionism and its striving to use the language of strength and diktat when speaking to its Arab neighbours. The hopes that the USA will start using the principle of "equal approach" to Israel and the Arabs promised by it have proved to be too naive, the newspaper notes. On these days assurances of support for the Zionist state and its policy are coming one after another from overseas. PRAVDA notes that there is only one way out--that of returning Middle East settlement within the framework of collective efforts. It is precisely why the USSR declares for the Geneva peace conference with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, where a just settlement of the protracted Middle East crisis can be worked out with due regard for the interests of all the states and peoples in that part of the world.

EGYPTIAN PARTY CRITICIZES MOVES AGAINST OPPOSITION

LD172307Y Moscow TASS in English 2207 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, May 17, TASS--The National-Progressive (left) Party of the A.R.E. levelled sharp criticism at the anti-democratic actions planned by the Egyptian leadership at As-Sadat's initiative and aimed at suppressing legal opposition in the country.

A statement disseminated here by the General Secretariat of the NPP says: We believe that the referendum planned by the authorities to restrict the freedom of political activity will be a violation of many provisions of the constitution, will threaten the security of citizens and the future of society. The foggy and ambiguous formulations of the questions in the polling cards, particularly those concerning reprisals for political activity, will allow the machine of executive power and the ruling centrist party to use the law against any citizen of the country at its whim.

Besides, a referendum in a society lacking an atmosphere favouring democracy cannot be a free expression of the will of the popular masses and will not, therefore, be considered a democratic measure. The planned referendum, the second within a year, is an attempt by the authorities to restrict still more the already limited democratic rights and freedoms existing in Egypt. In the light of the above, the left party says a "No" to the referendum and appeals to the constitutional and mass organisations, first of all the People's Assembly, the political parties, the trade union associations, the students of the universities, all the intellectuals to reject the referendum, to explain to the people the dangers it entails and come out for holding a discussion on the country's future with the participation of broad popular masses.

The new restrictions which they want to impose on democracy in Egypt, the document further notes, are spearheaded not against the National Progressive Party alone, but against the entire popular and political movement as well. Having stressed the confidence of the party in the correctness of its political course, the NPP General Secretariat called on the political, trade union and public organisations to come out in defence of democracy, of the rights to freedom and free expression of opinions. We are confident, the statement says, that the Egyptian people will be able to overcome all difficulties and direct its motherland onto the path of freedom, socialism and unity.

Party Paper Banned

LD172058Y Moscow TASS in English 1903 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, May 17 TASS--Egyptian authorities today banned the circulation of a regular issue of the newspaper AL-AHALI, organ of the National-Progressive (left) Party of the Arab Republic of Egypt. This decision was made because the newspaper published a statement by the party criticising the intentions of the president of the country to introduce new restrictions on political activities and on the democratic rights of Egyptians.

Speaking in the national assembly several days ago, President as-Sadat fiercely attacked the National-Progressive Party and the oppositionary press. He demanded the adoption of "urgent measures" against the party. In this connection observers do not rule out the possibility of a ban on the party.

EGYPT EXPELS ALGERIAN HOLDING INTER-ARAB POST

LD171727Y Moscow TASS in English 1430 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, May 17, TASS--The Egyptian authorities decided to expel T. al-Hudeiri, an Algerian by nationality, general director of the Arab organisation of labour. He is imputed actions incompatible with the character of his work in that organisation.

As is known, at the end of last year, Egypt broke off diplomatic relations with Algeria, Iraq, Libya, Syria, and the PDRY which came out against President as-Sadat's so-called "peace initiative". This is not the first case when the Egyptian authorities under various pretexts expel those countries' representatives holding responsible posts in various inter-Arab organisations.

NAVY COMMANDER GORSHKOV TO VISIT PDRY THIS MONTH

LD171105Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 May 78 p 3 LD

[Text] In accordance with an accord reached, Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union S.G. Gorshkov, USSR deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the navy, will pay an official visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] in the second half of May at the invitation of PDRY Defense Minister Lt Col A.N. 'Antar.

PDRY LEADER CALLS FOR FORMATION OF VANGUARD PARTY

LD162335Y Moscow TASS in English 2100 GMT 16 May 78 LD

[Text] Aden, 16 May, TASS--Formation of a vanguard party of a new type is one of the most important objectives facing the United Political Organization, the National Front and the popular masses of Democratic Aden. This has been stated at a mass meeting held here by Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, deputy general secretary of the National Front's Central Committee, chairman of the Presidential Council of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Formation of such a party, he stressed, will testify to our ability to lead the country along the road of solution of ideological, economic and social problems.

TASS AGREEMENT WITH IRAQ'S INA EXTENDS THROUGH 1980

LD180708Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2109 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Baghdad--At the end of 3 days of talks a new agreement has been concluded here today between TASS and the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA). The agreement, which goes up to 31 December 1980 with subsequent automatic annual extension, provides for the broadening of cooperation between the two agencies in the field of the exchange of news, including the broader distribution of information illuminating the just struggle of the Arabs. The agreement was signed by Muhammad Manaf al-Yasin, director general of INA, and Sergey Losev, first deputy director general of TASS. The signing was attended by Anatoliy Barkovskiy, USSR ambassador in the Iraqi Republic, and (?Qazim Jabad), director of the Iraqi Ministry of Information. The same day Sergey Losev was received by Sa'd Qasim Hamudi, minister of information of the Iraqi republic.

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

AT CONGRESS, DELEGATES BACK GENERAL LINE OF KKE

LD171905Y Moscow TASS in English 1818 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Athens, May 17, TASS--The 10th Congress of the Greek Communist Party continues here. The ideas of rallying all the peace-loving forces and the ranks of the international communist movement permeate the speeches of delegates who continue their debate on the progress report of the GCP CC.

Guests of the congress are making speeches of greetings. The struggle for peace and security, for understanding and cooperation among peoples, for making political and military relaxation irreversible, this is the central strategic task of universal, global importance, stated the head of the delegation from the Bulgarian Communist Party, Politbureau member and Secretary of the BCP CC Aleksandur Lilov. The general secretary of the Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus Ezekias Papaioannou stressed the international significance of a just solution of the Cyprus problem and thanked the Soviet Union for its invariably friendly aid to the Cyprus people in its struggle for the preservation of its independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In their speeches the delegates unanimously approve the party's general line formulated in the progress report of the GCP CC, aimed at the further strengthening of the alliance of all the anti-imperialist, anti-monopoly forces in the struggle for peace, independence, genuine democracy and social progress.

SOVIET, GREEK WARSHIPS TO EXCHANGE VISITS IN FALL

LD152205Y Moscow TASS in English 2145 GMT 15 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, May 16, TASS--An understanding has been reached that the warships of the USSR and Greece will exchange official friendly visits this year. Two Greek warships will visit Odessa from September 13 to 18, and two Soviet warships will visit Piraieus from October 20 to 25. The crews of the ships will go on excursions to places of historical interest, will visit museums, will hold sports meets. Other events are also envisaged, as well as visits by the population on board the ships.

BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH CYPRUS--Moscow, May 12, TASS--The chambers of commerce and industry of the USSR and Cyprus have signed an agreement on cooperation. The sides agreed to facilitate the strengthening and expansion of trade, economic, scientific and technical contacts between foreign trade organizations of the USSR and organizations and firms of Cyprus. Provisions are made for a systematic exchange of information on economic matters and foreign trade. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 0943 GMT 12 May 78 LD]

PATRIARCH IN CYPRUS--Nicosia, May 16, TASS--A delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church, headed by Pimen, the patriarch of Moscow and all Russia, visited here from May ninth to 15th at the invitation of the Cypriot Orthodox Church. They were received by the president of Cyprus, Spiros Kiprianou. The head of state highly assessed the relations between the Republic of Cyprus and the Soviet Union. He stressed the firm nature of the friendly contacts between the governments and peoples of the two countries. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 0724 GMT 16 May 78 LD]

MORE MATERIAL ON EVENTS IN ZAIRE'S SHABA PROVINCE

TASS Statement

LD171944Y Moscow TASS in English 1935 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, May 17 TASS--Follows a TASS statement: Foreign news agencies have again reported of late that anti-government armed actions began in the Shaba Province--in the south of Zaire. These events are being used by imperialist forces to put in circulation a false version about an aggression against Zaire from outside, with alleged involvement of the Soviet Union.

The fresh attempt to present an internal conflict in Zaire as a foreign aggression is made by those who are interested in interfering in the internal affairs of African countries and are not loath to assume the role of a policeman on the African Continent. The thought occurs that those who come up with the above-mentioned invention regarding the Soviet Union are the ones who are preparing a military intervention in Zaire's affairs. Unequivocal hints to this effect have also come from some Western press sources.

The Soviet people entertains kind feelings towards the Zaire people and wants to live in peace and friendship with it. It is common knowledge that there is none, nor has there ever been, a Soviet man operating with arms in hand in Zaire territory. It is hard to imagine that a sensible person could be found who would believe this fabrication, concocted by the filthy hands of those who are hatching new adventures against African peoples.

TASS has been authorised to resolutely refute the absurd fabrications about the Soviet Union's involvement in the Zaire events. In its international relations the Soviet Union firmly adheres to the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries.

If, as a result of interference by imperialist forces, a new dangerous hotbed of tension appears in the heart of Africa, all the responsibility for it will fall on those who, in their narrow, selfish interests, and under thought-up pretexts are pursuing a line towards fanning up a conflict situation in Zaire and around it.

Front's Communique; U.S., UK Activities

LD171844Y Moscow TASS in English 1928 GMT 17 May 78 LD

["Another U.S. Interference in Africa"--TASS headline]

[Excerpts] Brussels, May 17 TASS--According to reports coming from Zaire, units of the National Liberation Front of the Congo drove government troops out of the town of Mutshatsha in the Province of Shaba (formerly Katanga) and are advancing in the westerly direction. It was reported that the forces of the national liberation front seized earlier the important strategic point, the town of Kolwezi.

A communique of the Front of National Liberation of the Congo circulated here says that there are many foreign mercenaries in the Zaire Army. It is also reported that some units of the Zaire Army consisting of Africans cross over to the side of the national liberation front.

Washington, May 17 TASS--The United States and a number of other NATO countries conduct intensive activity in connection with the events in the Shaba Province. The situation in Zaire was discussed during a meeting of President of the United States Carter with the leaders of the U.S. Congress from both parties. A special staff which follows the events in Zaire was set up at the Department of State. The press secretary of the White House, Powell, held a press conference in this connection. He said that the question of widening the presidential powers with regard to deliveries of armaments and giving military support to "friendly countries" was discussed at the meeting of President Carter with the leaders of the congress. The U.S. press explains that this discussion referred to Zaire.

The press secretary added that the point is to facilitate the procedure of arms deliveries and not to give to the President the powers of sending U.S. troops without the sanction of the Congress.

The representative of the Department of State said that if Zaire makes a request for assistance, the United States will immediately consider this request. The State Department admitted that the United States has no information confirming outside interference in Zaire's affairs. Nevertheless the Pentagon put on the alert military transport planes and men of the 82nd parachute division. A Pentagon representative said that this decision was made in connection with the events in Zaire. And the plans of U.S. interference in Zaire's internal affairs were covered up with the talks about the need to be ready for "a possible evacuation of American citizens." All this shows that certain circles in the United States intensify again the interventionist policy and step up the arms deliveries which only leads to further aggravation of the situation.

London, May 17 TASS--Britain's Foreign Secretary David Owen said in parliament that there is no information showing that foreign troops participate in the fighting in the Zaire Province [of] Shaba and that the forces declaring against the Zaire Government receive any outside support.

OFFICIALS APPOINTED AFTER COUP IN COMOROS

LD180928Y Moscow TASS in English 0727 GMT 18 May 78 LD

[Text] Antananarivo, May 18, TASS--The military-political directorate, which seized power on the Comoro Islands as a result of a coup d'etat last weekend, appointed Abdallah Mohamed to be prime minister of the Comoro state. He also heads the ministries of social affairs, justice, economy, trade and finance. The second member of the cabinet is Abbas Youssouf, who was appointed to be minister of state of national defence, internal affairs, transport and telecommunications, dispatches from Moroni report. The Government of the Comoro state will later be enlarged, says a decree issed in Moroni.

DISINTERESTED AID GUARANTEES VICTORY, MENGISTU SAYS

LD162000Y Moscow TASS in English 1832 GMT 16 May 78 LD

[Confidence in Victory--TASS headline]

[Text] Addis Ababa, May 16 TASS--Disinterested aid of states of the socialist community, primarily the Soviet Union and Cuba, is a relisble guarantee of the ultimate victory of the Ethiopian revolution over international imperialism and reaction, said Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia Mengistu Haile Mariam. He spoke at a mass meeting in Harar.

Neither the undisguised aggression, unleashed by international imperialism and reactionary Arab regimes against Ethiopia nor designs of internal counterrevolution and separatist groupings were able to undermine the national-democratic revolution which enjoys firm support of the broad popular masses, all progressive forces of the world, said the chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia.

The working people of Ethiopia, he stressed, are fully determined to defend the gains of the revolution, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, to put into life the program of fundamental socio-economic transformations. Rehabilitation of the war-ravaged economy, aid to the population who suffered from war, development and upsurge of industrial and agricultural production are no less responsible objectives which should enlist the efforts of the whole people.

In conclusion, the chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia spoke highly of heroism and courage displayed by the troops, people's militia units, residents of the Hararge Province in repelling the foreign intervention, and expressed confidence that the Ethiopian people would attain victory over the forces of reaction and will confidently follow the road charted by the national-democratic revolution.

NKOMO DEMANDS IMMEDIATE TRANSFER OF POWER TO PEOPLE

LD162106Y Moscow TASS in English 1938 GMT 16 May 78 LD

[Text] Luanda, May 16 TASS--Joshua Nkomo, a leader of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, has demanded full and immediate transfer of power in its entirety into the hands of the Zimbabwe people, to their only legitimate representative--the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front. In these conditions, he said, in an interview to radio Angola, only further intensification of armed struggle can lead the people of Zimbabwe to freedom and independence.

Joshua Nkomo has resolutely denounced the recent aggression, committed by the racist Republic of South Africa against Angola and Namibian refugees. This action, he said, lays bare the real aims of the racists and their Western supporters which are after a neo-colonialist solution of the Namibian problem and actual preservation of the illegal occupation of Namibia.

SOUTH ASIA

SOVIET PEOPLE EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS TO AFGHANISTAN

LD161850Y Moscow in Dari to Afghanistan 1300 GMT 15 May 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Summary] The Soviet people have seen the statement by Taraki, president of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA]. This statement was published in the Soviet press and describes the main policy points of the DRA. The Soviet people noted the independent and peace-seeking policy of nonalinement that serves the interests of the poeple of Afghanistan. As Mr Taraki said, the DRA Government is determined to raise the people's living standards. Similarly, land reforms and the peoples and workers' democratic rights are among the policy points of the DRA. Such efforts are needed in the light of the fact that Afghanistan suffered from poverty and backwardness under previous regimes.

"Nur Mohammad Taraki invited all the people to unite under the banner of unity and solidarity of all the democratic and progressive national forces under the leadership of the Democratic People's Party of Afghanistan so that the national revolution of the people of Afghanistan can attain final victory. According to reports received from Afghanistan, this invitation was welcomed enthusiastically by the vast masses of the people of Afghanistan. (?The people) of this southern neighbor of the USSR--the work-loving and freedom-loving people of Afghanistan have entered one of their most important stages of development. The Soviet people wish them success in their efforts to build their beloved and [word indistinct] country."

AFGHAN PRESIDENT GUARANTEES EQUALITY, END OF EXPLOITATION

LD160912Y Moscow TASS in English 0822 GMT 16 May 78 LD

[Text] Kabul, May 16, TASS--The president of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, Nur Mohammad Taraki, announced that the new government guaranteed genuine equality of all peoples living in Afghanistan.

Addressing representatives of various tribes of the country, the president pointed out that implementation of the government's program would make it possible to abolish all shapes of exploitation.

POLITICAL, SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN AFGHANISTAN EXAMINED

LD161359Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 78 Morning Edition p3 LD

[Report by IZVESTIYA correspondent A. Akhmedzyanov: "Afghanistan Today"]

[Excerpts] In the center of Kabul, by the presidential palace, I saw the first evidence of recent events. At the palace itself a heavy tank with an open turret was sunk into the road surface. I saw another wrecked tank and a truck nearby. The palace square was filled with people in festive costume. A rally was in progress on the lawn. A young student was reading poetry devoted to the revolution. Then a tank officer spoke:

"Dear fellow countrymen," he said, "the armed uprising by the country's heroic sons has ended in victory. The strength of the people's anger, like a spring torrent, has swept away the antipopular regime. The cherished goal of insuring justice has been attained. Long live the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan! [DRA] His call was echoed by thousands of voices: "Zindabad, Zindabad"--"long live!"

Behind the palace building, I saw the tankman orator again. He had a comrade with him. (Raruk) and (Mukhammadi), began to speak:

"We have all been waiting for this for a long time. The recent events merely accelerated our action. On 17 April the country's well-known progressive figure, Amir Akbar Qabir, member of the People's Democratic Party, was villainously murdered. Thousands of people attended his funeral. The authorities ordered that any people opposing the regime should be arrested.

On 27 April, the rebels moved closer to the presidential palace. They wanted no bloodshed and sent an ultimatum to the government. The reply from the palace was submachinegun and gunfire. The people in the palace were repeatedly asked to surrender but the representatives of the old regime refused. Aircraft arrived to help. They began to bomb the palace. To avoid unnecessary casualties, the bombardment chose specific targets. Not a single house near the palace was hit.

President M. Daud, his brother M. Naeem and some ministers died as a result of their senseless resistance. According to officials figures, 72-73 people died on both sides; the rebels' casualties were greater.

Explaining the essence of the events, Nur Mohammad Taraki, prime minister of the DRA and chairman of the Revolutionary Council, said: "It was not a coup but a revolution started by the People's Democratic Party supported by progressively minded military units; a revolution of genuinely national progressive, democratic and patriotic forces.

The garrisons in Jalalabad, (Gazni), Qandahar and Herat sent their congratulations to the Revolutionary Council the next day.

What were the causes of these transformations in Afghanistan? Afghanistan was ruled by a king prior to 1973. The rulers became rich while the people lived in poverty and without any rights. Feudal and semifeudal procedures continued in the countryside. The country longed for fundamental social changes. Five years ago, the monarchy was overthrown and the republican system established.

The authorities promised to carry out urgent democratic reforms. Indeed, certain reform laws were adopted. However, the people's hopes for the new government were not realized. The proclaimed agrarian transformations were never implemented. Millions of landless peasants remained as serfs of the Zamindars (landowners). Many former government ministers owned enormous tracts of land.

It was against this background that discontent with the ruling regime increased in the country--discontent which eventually took the form of armed action.

The Revolutionary Council has displayed immediate concern for the population's needs. It has appealed to all citizens to work and perform their duties in a spirit of patriotism. Anti-inflation measures have been implemented.

The Revolutionary Council has proclaimed the creation of the DRA and the formation of the country's first people's government. Nur Mohammed Taraki, a prominent progressive figure in Afghanistan, has been elected chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA. His comrades in the party and in the armed forces have taken cabinet posts.

Today, more than 30 countries have recognized the DRA. Kabul has praised the cordial congratulations sent by Comrades L.I. Brezhnev and A.N. Kosygin to Nur Mohammad Taraki, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and head of the DRA Government, on his appointment to these posts.

The new government has announced that it will pursue on independent peace-loving policy of nonalinement and positive and active neutrality, strengthen relations of neighborliness with all the region's countries and expand friendly relations with the USSR.

The atmosphere in the capital is businesslike and the government has started elaborating specific programs to implement profound socioeconomic transformations. The Afghan patriots are aware that they are faced with a difficult struggle for the genuine renewal of an ancient country.

POPULAR SUPPORT OF NEW AFGHAN ADMINISTRATION EVIDENT

LD161517Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 20, 12 May 78 p 7 LD

[A. Usvatov article: "Afghanistan Becomes a Democratic Republic"]

[Text] Great changes have occurred in our southern neighbor--Afghanistan, a country with a population of almost 20 million. The government of Mohammed Daud was overthrown 27 April as a result of the armed forces' successful actions. The military Revolutionary Council now rules the country. Although violence occurred during the uprising, "the action by the national armed forces," Kabul Radio said, "passed with minimal human casualties."

Events developed so quickly that 2 days later Kabul Radio was able to state that "normal conditions have been fully restored in the country." The majority of stores and markets opened as early as 29 April. Ground and air communications are again operating.

On 30 April the military Revolutionary Council announced that it was transferring all state power to a supreme political organ--the Revolutionary Council.

As the supreme organ of state power, the Revolutionary Council proclaimed the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] in decree No 1. The decree stated that Nur Mohammad Taraki, "Afghanistan's outstanding national and revolutionary figure," had been elected chairman of the Revolutionary Council and, at the same time, head of state and government.

The Revolutionary Council formed a new government headed by N.M. Taraki. The government's deputy prime ministers are Babrak Karmal, who is also deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Hafizollah Amin (also foreign minister) and Mohammad Aslam (also minister of communications). The Ministry of National Defense is headed by Col Abdol Qadir, an active participant in the armed uprising. The cabinet includes only two military men. The other ministers are civilians: engineers, writers, doctors, teachers.

When this journal was published, a detailed action program of the DRA Revolutionary Council and Government had not yet been published. But on 28 April, the military Revolutionary Council had proclaimed that the country's domestic policy would be based "on defense of the principles of Islam and democracy, freedom and personal immunity and on the achievements of progress by Afghanistan in all spheres." In foreign policy, the country will "follow a course of positive and active neutrality."

Analyzing the events in Afghanistan, many news organizations, even bourgeois ones, recognize their law-governed nature. Thus, the Teheran newspaper KAYHAN carried an article entitled "Why a Coup in Afghanistan?" That notes the reactionary and absolutist nature of the Daud regime, under which "a brief period of liberalization quickly ended" and that "relied on the traditional ruling classes." The West German newspaper FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU sees the chief reason for the uprising in the fact that in 1973 "Daud...promised reforms and changes but did nothing in that direction." Foreign observers point out that Afghanistan has recently experienced particulary serious economic difficulties. Drought in the northern regions has led to a drop in the sheep population--one of the country's chief products. A serious food shortage has also been experienced.

London's THE FINANCIAL TIMES correspondent, who is in the Kabul, testifies that "the inhabitants of Kabul, by all accounts, are quite content with the change of power, and their satisfaction is genuine." At the same time, certain reactionary press organs have launched a propaganda campaign against Afghanistan and the new regime that was established there. On 4 May, Nur Mohammad Taraki, chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council and head of the government, issued a statement sharply condemning "the malicious and false propaganda campaign distorting the facts and essence of the events occurring in the country" that has been launched by international reaction. He emphasized that the armed action of 27 April was the start of a national democratic revolution in Afghanistan. This revolution, he declared, has been carried out on the basis of the people's direct will and without the slightest foreign intervention. N.M. Taraki rejected the fabrications of reactionary circles alleging that thousands of people had been killed or executed in Afghanistan and said that no more than 100 people had died during the events of 27 April.

One of the first acts by the new authorities was a decision to nationalize all property belonging to members of the Nadir Shah dynasty, which had ruled the country and to which M. Daud also belonged. According to reports from Kabul, country delegations of workers, peasants, officials, the clergy, teachers, students and Afghan tribes are visiting local governors and voicing their support for the Revolutionary Council. Recognition of the DRA is also spreading in the international arena.

The Soviet Union officially recognized the DRA 30 April. In a congratulatory telegram sent to Nur Mohammad Taraki in connection with his appointment to the highest posts in the DRA, L.I. Brezhnev and A.N. Kosygin expressed firm confidence that relations of lasting friendship and fruitful all-round cooperation will develop and strengthen between the Soviet Union and the DRA on the basis of the principles of equality, neighborliness, respect for national sovereignty and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

The governments of Cuba, Bulgaria, India, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and a number of other states have already announced their recognition of the DRA.

KOSYGIN RECEIVES INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO USSR AT KREMLIN

LD171825Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin today received in the Kremlin, Gujral, India's ambassador in the USSR, at the latter's request. During the conversation, which passed in a friendly atmosphere, questions concerning the development of Soviet-Indian cooperation were touched upon.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

U.S. PLANS FOR SATELLITE STATION IN AUSTRALIA PROTESTED

LD151206Y Moscow TASS in English 1135 GMT 15 May 78 LD

[Text] Canberra, May 15, TASS--A scandal broke out in the Australian Parliament in connection with the stay of the U.S. military when the Pentagon's secret document was made public by chance. According to the document it is planned to build a new ground station for military satellites in the U.S. air base in Northwest Cape in Australia. The construction is to be started in December of the next year and the station is to be completed in 1981. The U.S. company Philco-Ford is the subcontractor of the project.

The opposition's representative on questions of defence, G. Scholes, said it was established that the Australian administration was not even informed of the United States' intention to modernise and expand this military complex.

The opposition's leader, William G. Hayden, said that the Australian people must be informed in advance about any intentions concerning military projects in the country's territory. He stressed this is not the first case when the United States makes decisions about military projects without consulting the government of a country in whose territory they are situated. Washington's unilateral actions cause tension in the U.S.-Australian relations, the opposition's leader said.

Australian Ministry-Pentagon Ties

LD171446Y Moscow TASS in English 1355 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Canberra, May 17, TASS--The fact that the United States decided to expand and reequip the U.S. military base at Northwest Cape (western Australia) without so much as notifying the Australian Government caused indignation of the Australian public. In connection with unceremonious actions of the United States, the Melbourne newspaper AGE reports that when this "incident" was investigated, the contacts of the Australian Defence Ministry with the Pentagon were revealed. It became known that "unofficial" contacts concerning the base at Northwest Cape were held by the U.S. and Australian military.

The case concerning the Northwest Cape base shows again that the Australian Defence Ministry obeys not so much those who hold meetings on the shore of Lake Barlee Griffin (the place where the building of Australian Parliament is situated) as those who are on the banks of the Potomac.

BREZHNEV, INDONESIAN PRESIDENT EXCHANGE MESSAGES

LD111902Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1750 GMT 11 May 78 LD

[Text] Leonid Ilich Brezhnev has sent a congratulatory telegram to General Suharto, in connection with his reelection to the post of president of the Republic of Indonesia.

In a return cable the president of the Republic of Indonesia expressed gratitude for the congratulations.

The telegrams of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev and General Suharto express the hope that the friendly relations existing between the two countries will continue to develop for the good of the peoples of the Soviet Union and Indonesia and in the interests of general peace and international security.

PRC REACTION TO JAPAN-ROK PACT DISTURBS DIET MEMBERS

LD1612317 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 May 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent I. Latyshev dispatch: "Contradictions Are Aggravated"]

[Text] Tokyo, 11 May--A bill defining the conditions for the implementation of a Japanese-South Korean agreement on the joint development of the East China Sea continental shelf is now awaiting approval by the Japanese parliament.

NCNA reported that Han Nien-lung, PRC vice minister of foreign affairs, told Shoji Sato, Japanese ambassador to China, that the Chinese authorities "do not recognize" this Japanese-South Korean agreement and regard it as "a new encroachment on China's sovereignty."

The Tokyo newspapers point out that Peking's demarche is not the first attempt by the Chinese authorities to influence the Japanese parliament and hinder the implementation of the Japanese-South Korean agreement; Peking has made two similar protests to Tokyo. Attention is attracted by the opinion of an unnamed Japanese Foreign Ministry official who stated that the Japanese side sees no need to consult China on the ratification of the accords with South Korea on the joint development of oil resources in the East China Sea.

The newspaper ASAHI reports that the Chinese protest has caused bewilderment among the parliamentary deputies who support the speediest signing of the Japanese-Chinese "peace and friendship treaty" and has galvanized the actions of the treaty opponents who assess the Chinese demarche as "interference in Japan's internal affairs" and as a fresh "nhegemonistic step" by Peking. All this gives local political commentators reason to speak of the further aggravation of Japanese-Chinese relations.

HOKKAIDO FISHERMEN'S MOVEMENT SEEKS FRIENDSHIP WITH USSR

LD161457Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 May 78 p 5 LD

[Report by I. Latyshev: "A Fine Undertaking and its Opponents"]

[Text] Tokyo--An important movement has emerged in the city of Kushiro--a major Japanese fishing center. It was initiated by local fishermen who are fishing in accordance with the existing Japanese-Soviet fishing agreements in the waters off the Soviet coast. The movement's objective is to create an atmosphere of mutual understanding and good will between the Japanese and Soviet sides, including fishermen, border authorities and fishing monitoring organizations. In this way, local fishermen intend to make their contribution to the strengthening of Japanese-Soviet neighborliness.

The owners of several local fishing vessels and crew members assembled in the house of the Japanese-Soviet Society of Friendship and Trade on east Hokkaido, which opened last year. In a ceremonial atmosphere, the society board leaders presented the owners of each ship with a beautifully framed certificate stating that the ships' crews are members of the society. During speeches, the fishermen's representatives stressed the importanc of strengthening friendship between the Japanese and Soviet peoples and their readiness to promote this cause.

Regrettably, however, this fine effort by the supporters of Japanese-Soviet friendship encountered a cautious and unfriendly attitude from certain leaders of Kushiro's fishing circles who attempted, for certain political reasons, to dissuade the fishermen from joining the society and to fuel anti-Soviet feelings. Officials of certain central government departments are behaving in the same way. They are reluctant to recognize the existing borders between the two countries. This is exemplified by the position of Japanese Foreign Ministry officials who prevented workers of the Soviet Embassy and Consulate in Sapporo from attending the meeting in Kushiro. However, this does not embarrass Japanese friends of the Soviet Union. "We are sure," Masaharo Muto, chairman of the Japanese-Soviet Society of Friendship and Trade on east Hokkaido, told me, "that the fishermen's movement to support Japanese-Soviet friendship, which was initiated in our city, will develop despite all obstacles. Readiness to support it has already been expressed by fishermen's representatives in some other cities on Hokkaido and the Japanese west coast. The true interests of the Japanese people demand friendship with the USSR, not confrontation."

MEXICAN PRESIDENT VISITS USSR, TALKS WITH SOVIET LEADERS

Kremlin Talks

LD172035Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Talks were held in the Kremlin today between Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presiduim; Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and chairman of the USSR Council of ministers; Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR minister of foreign affairs, and Jose Lopez Portillo, president of Mexico, in the Soviet Union on an official visit.

During the talks, which passed in a friendly atmosphere, there was an extensive exchange of opinions on Soviet-Mexican relations and prospects for their development. It was noted with satisfaction that these relations were being built on a strong treaty basis and were a good example of fruitful cooperation between countries with different social systems, based on equal rights, mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs.

Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said that the efforts of the Mexican people and their government toward consolidating their country's sovereignty and economic independence and defending their inalienable right to freely dispose of their national natural resources were understood and appreciated by Soviet people.

The mutual desire to further strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation in various fields in the Soviet and Mexican people's interests and for the consolidation of universal peace and security was noted.

During discussion of topical international problems of mutual interest, both sides expressed determination to continue to make active efforts to make detente stable and irreversible and to spread it throughout the world.

Particular attention was devoted to ending the arms race and to the transition to real measures of disarmament. The Soviet Union, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said, has put forward specific proposals to close all channels of the nuclear and conventional arms race, thereby creating conditions for their subsequent reduction.

Both sides expressed profound interest that the work of the forthcoming special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament should be successful and fruitful.

Jose Lopez Portillo said that the Soviet Union's decision to join the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America had been greeted with great satisfaction.

Taking part in the talks were:

On the Soviet side, Arkhipov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Skachkov, chairman of the State Committee of the USSR Council of Ministers for Foreign Economic Relations; Aleksandrov, assistant to the CPSU Central Committee general secretary; Zamyatin, chief of a CPSU CC department; Kuzmin, first deputy USSR minister of foreign trade; Malik, deputy USSR minister of foreign affairs [position as heard], Volskiy, the Soviet Union's ambassador in Mexico; Alekseyev and Sofinskiy, chiefs of departments of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On the Mexican side:

(Joaquin Gamboa Pastor), president of the Senate of the National Congress; Roel Garcia, secretary of foreign relations; de la Vega Dominguez, secretary of commerce; Andres De Oteyza, secretary of patrimony and industrial development; Martinez Aguilar, Mexico's ambassador in the Soviet Union; (Adrian Lajolls), director general of the Institute for Foreign Trade; Jose (Diaz Serrano), director general of the Petroleos Mexicanos Institute; (Monerris Bartlett), director of the Political Department of the Department of Foreign Relations of Mexico.

Attends Kremlin Dinner

LD171730Y Moscow TASS in English 1716 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, May 17, TASS--The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Government of the USSR held a dinner in the Grand Kremlin Palace in honour of the President of the United States of Mexico Jose Lopez Portillo, who arrived today in the Soviet Union on an official visit.

Present at the dinner from the Soviet side were general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Aleksey Kosygin and other Soviet leaders.

Leonid Brezhnev and Jose Lopez Portillo exchanged speeches.

The dinner passed in a friendly atmosphere.

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1730 on 17 May reports the following officials in attendance: "Comrades Brezhnev, Kosygin, Gromyko, Demichev, Kuznetsov, deputy chairmen of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairmen of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet, ministers of the Soviet Union, chairmen of USSR state committees, and other officials."]

Brezhnev's Dinner Speech

LD171752Y Moscow TASS in English 1737 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, May 17 TASS--The general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev today made a speech at a dinner in honor of the president of Mexico. He said:

"Esteemed Mr. President,

Esteemed Mexican guests,

Comrades,

It is a great pleasure to extend heartfelt greetings to you Mr. President, to your wife and to all Mexican statesmen and politicians who arrived with you.

Our meetings is yet another evidence of strengthening ties between the Soviet Union and Mexico. Geographically our countries are far apart, in different hemispheres. But distance is no obstacle to cooperation when there is a sincere desire of friendship.

With what do Soviet people associate Mexico in their minds?

First of all with the courageous struggle by the Mexican people for freedom and independence. The ardent patriotism and glorious traditions of the liberation, anti-imperialist struggle of Mexicans long evoke sympathy and respect in the Soviet Union.

The history of Soviet-Mexican relations is already more than half a century long. It has numerous vivid and glorious pages. Friendship between our countries has withstood the trial of time.

Mutually advantageous equal cooperation based on principles of peaceful coexistence now exists between the USSR and Mexico in many fields.

No doubt about it, the tone of our relations is set by the successful development of diverse political contacts. Serving as a reliable foundation for them are adherence to the cause of struggle for peace and international security, solidarity with the peoples upholding their freedom and independence. We easily find a common tongue on many issues of international politics and come out from common or close positions on most topical problems of our time. Regular consultations, exchanges of parliamentary delegations and, of course, meetings at summit level--all this helps strengthen mutual understanding and mutual trust and to outline the milestone of further cooperation. As to trade and economic ties, here, too, we have good prospects. The volume of trade today is not yet great, but the goods that we are exchanging are needed by the economies of our countries. Besides, we have a substantial legal basis of treaties. The matter is to make the most rational use of existing possibilities.

It is no secret that Soviet people show an understanding of the Mexican people's efforts directed at developing its national economy, at protecting its natural wealth from exploitation by foreign capital. We hold that these efforts are in the common channel of the struggle by Latin America and all developing countries against the sway of foreign monopolies, for restructuring international economic relations on a democratic, just basis.

Soviet people have always shown much interest in the century-long, original culture of Mexico. Our cultural and scientific ties began to develop already in the 1920's. Such prominent personalities of Soviet science and culture as Academician Vavilov, the poet Mayakovskiy and the film director Eisenstein visited Mexico in their time and it left a vivid, indelible impression on them. In their turn, many Mexican cultural figures visited my country. Among them the outstanding sons of the Mexican people, the world famous painters Diego Revere and David Siqueiros.

It is gratifying that our relations are not marking time but are developing dynamically. They became especially intensive in the 1970's. More inter-state and other agreements were concluded between the USSR and Mexico in the last two-three years than throughout the entire postwar period.

Mr President,

Durable peace, security of nations, development of peaceful, equal cooperation among them--such is the core of the Soviet Union's foreign policy. [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1730 GMT on 17 May renders the phrase "among them" in the preceding sentence as "between us" in an announcer-read version of the speech]

The Soviet state places the ending of the arms race and disarmament at the apex of the struggle for peace. Our country is not alone in the struggle for peace and disarmament. Side by side with us are countries of the socialist community and many other states, all anti-war forces, all people of good will.

Through the combined effort of all peace-loving states--and here we pay tribute to Mexico's contribution as well--it proved possible to conclude a number of international and bilateral agreements which limit to a definite extent the production and deployment of individual types of armaments. On the whole the past decade has brought about quite a few good, I would say healthy, changes in international relations. They have become commonly known as relaxation of international tension.

At the same time it must be said outright that there exist forces, and influential forces, whose addresses are known, that have made a stake long ago on the heightening of international tension, have linked their interests with the arms race.

This is the main reason for the fact that the rate of military preparations is increasing and, consequently, the war danger is growing. It is high time to go over finally to real steps to curb the arms race and lay the beginning for disarmament.

It is proceeding from these aims that we have recently come out with a concrete program of practical steps directed at putting a complete end to the further quantitative and qualitative growth of the armaments and armed forces of states possessing a big military potential. We want the production of all types of nuclear weapons to be stopped, we want the production of all other types of weapons of mass annihilation to be stopped and these weapons banned, we want no more new types of conventional arms of great destructive force to be created, we want the permanent Security Council members and countries bound with them by military agreements not to expand further their armies and not to increase conventional armaments.

That is what we propose to reach agreement on in the near future. We think that this program accords with the interests and aspirations of all peoples and should have the support of all peace-loving governments including, as we hope, also the Mexican Government.

It is abolutely clear that the cause of disarmament depends not only on the Soviet Union. Were our will alone sufficient, mankind would have long been free from the burden of the arms race. But the problem of disarmament can be solved only by common effort.

We hope that at the forthcoming special session of the United Nations General Assembly all states, including non-aligned states and among them, of course, Mexico, will make their useful contribution to solving the problem of disarmament.

I would like to mention here also another important constructive step that the Soviet Union undertakes in accordance with its principled line at lessening the threat of nuclear war. Our country has decided to sign additional protocol two of the treaty on banning nuclear weapons in Latin America. [Moscow Radio renders 'two of' as 'to' in the above sentence.]

Assuming the commitment to respect the status of nuclear-free zone in the Latin American Continent, we are proceeding from the premise that other nuclear powers, too, will be strictly observing this status, that the participants in the treaty will ensure a truly nuclear-free regime in the zone covered by the treaty. On the whole we expect that this step of ours will help strengthen and develop friendly relations with Latin American countries.

In conclusion, Mr President, may I express confidence that your visit and our exchange of opinions on a wide range of questions will give a new impetus to the strengthening and expansion of Soviet-Mexican relations. The talks that began today have confirmed that our countries possess a mutual desire to develop cooperation in every way, to impart to it a still broader and more dynamic nature.

May I propose a toast to the health of the President of Mexico Jose Lopez Portillo and his wife,

To the health of our Mexican guests,

To friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Mexico.

Lopez Portillo Address

LD171821Y Moscow TASS in English 1813 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, May 17, TASS--The struggle for peace concerns all countries, since the nuclear threat spreads to the whole planet, stated President Jose Lopez Portillo of Mexico at a dinner given in his honour in the Kremlin today by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and Soviet Government. The Mexican president arrived in the USSR for an official visit.

"We regard the peace in which mankind has lived till now wanting," the president said, "for we have not yet attained peace in the true sense of the word. We believe in a positive peace that would make it possible to create an international system of full interaction with the participation of all peoples, and would lead to a just distribution of wealth and genuine equality of opportunities.

"We are well aware that the achievement of this goal is a difficult and gradual process, and that for implementing general and complete disarmament under effective international control we must consolidate what has been achieved during the preliminary stages. However, we are inclined optimistically. We can state the presence of positive moments which we must utilise for taking concrete measures." Only a few days ago, the president notes, talks were held in Moscow on questions pertaining to arms limitation which, according to the participants in the talks, opened new opportunities for the implementation of these goals. "We welcome such progress and come out for continuing the process with the participation of all states until a complete ban on means of annihilation is achieved and the process covers all aspects of ensuring universal peace."

Another particularly inspiring feature, in the president's view, is the decision of the Soviet Union, announced on the eve of this meeting, to sign Protocol 2 to the Tlatelolco Agreement. Jose Lopez Portillo said that the Tlatelolco Agreement on banning nuclear weapons in Latin America is of special importance. "It signifies the creation of the first populated zone in the world free from means of annihilation. It saves from the danger of nuclear annihilation 300 million human lives and half the continent. This alone means a triumph of reason, resistance and confidence in the possibility of peace," the president stressed.

The Soviet Union, Jose Lopez Portillo noted, firmly supported in the U.N. the adoption of the charter of economic rights and duties of states, which is one of the pillars of a new economic order. "The charter has been adopted," the president said, "and now must be put in full effect. New struggles lie ahead: to overcome obstacles obstructing the assertion of just relations between the peoples with the participation of all states irrespective of differences in political systems." Other important tasks that our countries may resolve through international organizations are: completing the decolonization process with the obligatory elimination of the mechanisms owing to which the position of domination and dependence survives, upholding the right to self-determination and the sovereignty of new states, supporting the process of their internal consolidation with the aim of frustrating new and still more subtle manoeuvres alien to their own interests, upholding the complete sovereign right of each country to dispose of its own resources and of course, the central task of strengthening cooperation in the interests of the political, economic and social development of all the peoples, noted the president. "The participation of the Soviet Union in this grandiose task if fundamental," he believes.

Speaking about concrete aspects of bilateral Soviet-Mexican relations, the president said that this cooperation is developing in the cultural, scientific and technical fields and has broad prospects. "At the same time", he said, "we frankly admit the absence of trade and economic exchanges, despite the available opportunities, and stated our decision to put an end to sluggishness and impart to them the desired dynamism and breadth."

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HALTS ELECTION BALLET COUNTING

LD180842Y Moscow TASS in English 0650 GMT 18 May 78 LD

[Text] New York, May 17, TASS--Men and officers broke into the premises of the Central Election Committee in Santo Domingo, where votes cast in the general elections in the Dominican Republic held yesterday, were counted, told all the members of the committee to go, and switched off receiving and transmitting equipment.

Thus, according to a report of correspondents of news agencies, was interrupted the counting of votes, which showed that candidate of the opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party A. Guzman was considerably ahead of his main rival, President of the country J. Balaguer, who intended to achieve for the fourth time his re-election to the post of head of state.

According to reports reaching here, the capital and other towns of the country were a scene of armed clashes, in which there were killed and injured, and dozens of persons were arrested. The streets of Santo Domingo are patrolled by police and army duty details. A concentration of army and government cars outside the residence of J. Balaguer was noted, which gives ground to believe that meetings are being held there.

The local newspapers did not get off print today, the radio and television stations do not function and many enterprises are closed.

There were disruptions in the operation of telex and telephone communications with the Dominican Republic. Conflicting reports are coming from the country. Correspondents of news agencies first reported on a military coup in that Central American country and the arrest of A. Guzman and some other opposition figures, but then quoted the command of the Dominican Armed Forces as refuting reports about the coup and noting that the army remains loyal to the constitution. The destiny of A. Guzman and chairman of the Central Electoral Committee, M. Joaquin Castillo, who was carried away by the military, remains unknown. As the Costa Rican "Monumental" radio station reports, the building of the National Congress in Santo Domingo is occupied by troops. The country is actually on the verge of a coup d'etat.

PROSECUTION MAKES CONCLUDING SPEECH IN ORLOV TRIAL

LD171940Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1845 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--The Moscow City Court continues to hear the criminal case against Yuriy Orlov alleging anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda, a crime which comes under Section 1 Article 70 of the criminal code of the Russian Federation. Today material evidence in the Orlov case was examined.

The court was shown documents that the accused prepared and distributed with the help of anti-Soviet publications POSSEV, CHRONICLE OF CURRENT EVENTS, and others. These materials were also made available to the radio stations Liberty, Deutsche Welle, Voice of America, BBC, and Rome Radio.

The documents fabricated by Orlov were extensively used by certain imperialist circles for perpetrating various anti-Soviet acts.

The hearing of the Orlov case started here on Monday. In the prosecution's concluding speech, which was made by Judge Valentina Lyubentsova, it was pointed out that in the prepared and distributed documents, Orlov called for an undermining of the foundations of the existing system in the USSR and for a struggle against it.

Witnesses whom the court heard on Tuesday confirmed the slanderous character of the Orlov documents, in which the internal and foreign policy of the USSR is presented in a distorted light.

Orlov, questioned by the court on Monday, admitted that he bears full responsibility for the documents, which were systematically passed on by him to accredited correspondents of capitalist countries in Moscow, as well as sent to governments of foreign states and international organizations.

PROSECUTION COMPLETES QUESTIONING IN GEORGIAN TRIAL

LD180738Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0707 GMT 18 May 78 LD

[Text] Tbilisi, 18 May--The Tbilisi City Court has completed questioning witnesses in the criminal trial of Eviad Gamsakhurdia and Merab Kostava, who have been accused of anti-Soviet activity.

Some 21 witnesses appeared in court. They all confirmed and some added to the evidence they gave at the preliminary investigation.

The court then began to examine the material evidence filed in the criminal case, which confirmed the circumstances of the crime. Answering questions from the prosecution, Gamsakhurdia reported that in the summer of 1976, American journalists Shipler (New York TIMES) and Friendly (NEWSWEEK) visited him in Tbilisi. They were interested in Gamsakhurdia's views on the U.S. role in the area of "defense of human rights" and also if he was being persecuted for "activity in defense of rights."

Gamsakhurdia explained that he subsequently read Friendly's article with indignation. In Gamsakhurdia's view this article slandered life in Georgia. The defendent stressed that "Friendly unscrupulously referred to me as the source of this information." This is the way in which the role of the real instigators and inciters of subversive actions within the USSR is being revealed in court.

The trial continues.

KIRILENKO ARRIVES IN YAROSLAVL FOR CEREMONY

LD172128Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Comrade Kirilenko, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, arrived in Yaroslavl today. He will take part in the celebrations devoted to the presentation of the Order of the Red Banner of Labor to Rybinsk in Yaroslavlskaya Oblast. Comrade Kirilenko also visited the main enterprise of the Yaroslavl Avtodizel association today.

He viewed an exhibition of samples of the engines produced by the association and talked with workers. The leaders of the association told him of the successes achieved by the engine builders in fulfilling the tasks of the 10th 5-Year Plan and the association's development prospects. Comrade Kirilenko visited the scientific and technical information center and saw the sights of Yaroslavl.

LATE REPORT: ORLOV SENTENCED TO 7 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

LD181202Y Moscow TASS in English 1158 GMT 18 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, May 18, TASS--Throughout four days, the Moscow City Court in conformity with criminal-procedural legislation investigaed the circumstances of the criminal case against Yuriy Orlov, charged with a crime envisaged by Part One of Article 70 of the criminal code of the Russian Federation.

Having heard many witnesses, investigated material evidence and the findings of various expert examinations, having heard speeches of the state prosecutor and of defence counsel, and also the last plea of the accused, the court established that Orlov throughout 1973-1977 systematically distributed slanderous concoctions, smearing the Soviet state and social order, with the object of weakening Soviet power.

Having found Orlov guility of the crime he was charged with, the court, bearing in mind the public danger of his crime, sentenced him to seven years imprisonment and five years exile.

The sentenced Orlov and his lawful representatives can lodge an appeal against the sentence to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation in conformity with criminal-procedural legislation operating in the USSR.

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

CSA: SPRING CROPS OCCUPY 86 MILLION HECTARES BY 15 MAY

LD171722Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Nearly 20 million hectares were sown to spring crops on the country's kolkhozes and sovkhozes over the past week. This is the biggest increase since the beginning of the sowing season. Various agricultural crops now occupy 57 percent of the spring crop area, according to the latest data released by the USSR CSA.

The mass sowing of wheat is in progress in the Urals area, Siberia and the northern oblasts of Kazakhstan.

Potato-planting has begun in most of the country's rayons. Buckwheat sowing is developing in the RSFSR, Belorussia and Kazakhstan.

For some crops the sowing operation has been completed: Ukrainian farmers have sown rice and sunflowers on the republic's entire area. The farmers of Lithuania have completed sowing sugar beets and all the sugar beets in Modavia have been thinned out.

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1750 GMT on 17 May also cites the CSS report, which says that "the overwhelming majority of farms of the southern regions has already completed sowing. In a number of Central Asian kolkhozes and sovkhozes barley has ripened and harvesting has begun. In the east, in Siberia and Kazakhstan, the spring sowing campaign is only beginning to gather pace. At the moment sowing is in progress in all oblasts in Kazakhstan's Virgin Lands. In 9-10 working days grain farmers here must sow a huge area of more than 14 million hectares. This is within the ability of the large mechanized complexes, which are equipped with powerful tractors and widely extended drills. The machineoperators are working round the clock."

[At 1900 GMT the radio again reports on the CSA weekly figures, which note that "spring crops occupied about 86 million hectares" by 15 May. "Grain and pulse crops, excluding corn, have been laid on over 50 million hectares, more than 50 percent of the planned task. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Tadzhikistan, Azerbaijan and the Ukraine are completing sowing of spring crops. On farms in the Russian Federation a little more than 50 percent of the area is taken up by these crops."]

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 17 MAY

LD180350 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0000 GMT on 17 May informs its listeners that nearly 100 tractors are at work in the Kazakstan Virgin Lands. Sowing of wheat has begun on 16 million hectares of land in Kazakhstan.

At 0100 GMT the radio reports that mass sowing of graincrops is under way in the eastern part of the RSFSR. The radio cites a republic Central Statistical Administration report on 15 May saying that 10 million hectares have been sown in the Urals and in western and eastern Siberia. Rice sowing has already begun and work has started on soya sowing, which occupies more than 700,000 hectares in Khabarovskiy Kray, Amurskaya Oblast and Primorskiy Kray.

At 0500 GMT the radio reports more than 100,000 hectares of land in Omskaya Oblast have been sown in spring crops, while in Kostromskaya Oblast, potatoplanting began today.

At 1100 GMT the radio reports that sowing is underway in all the oblasts of the Kazakhstan Virgin Lands. So far, some 1¼ million hectares of land have been sown to grain in 9-10 days. Volgograd farmers are sowing corn and millet; rye has formed ears in southern rayons of Volgogradskaya oblast.

At 1400 GMT the radio informs its listeners that sowing is in progress on 11 million hectares in Kazakhstan and that despite changeable weather farms have sown 1 million hectares in the last 24 hours.

GRAIN DIRECTORATE OFFICIAL ON AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS

LD180110Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2115 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Commentary by Aleksandor Ivanovich Zholobov, head of the Main Directorate of Graincrops at the USSR Ministry of Agriculture]

[Text] The weather in the greater part of European USSR this spring has been marked by lengthy periods of low temperatures and frequent rains. Good soil moisture is being maintained. Such weather delays the plant development, but promotes taking root. Conditions for vegetation of winter crops are good. Shoots of early graincrops have appeared at farms in Latvia, Lithuania, most parts of Belorussia, the central region and the middle Volga. They have entered the tilling phase in the Ukraine, the Northern Caucasus and the lower Volga. The weather is delaying completion of sowing at farms in the northwest region and in a number of oblasts in the central and Volga-Vyatka regions. As a whole, in the Non-Chernozem Zone about 60 percent of the area allotted to grain crops has been sown--considerably less than last year's mark. The date for optimum sowing time in these regions is drawing to a close. This is why it is necessary to make use of every hour of fine weather so as to complete spring sowing in the next few days. On soils that are heavy as regard their mechanical makeup, disc equipment has to be used more widely so as to dry out the soil's sowing layer.

Shoots have been retarded on a number of fields in connection with the temperature drop. Incrustation [korka] has formed and weeds have appeared. Such fields must be harrowed before shoots appear. Under conditions of cool and moist weather, harrowing of spring crops (?at) tilling stage is an effective method and can be used more widely this year. Of course, harrowing is not a simple method; it requires a certain amount of experience and knowledge. But our farmworkers have plenty of skill.

The sowing rate is accelerating despite the whims of the weather. According to data from the USSR CSA spring crops have been sown on 57 percent of the USSR on 15 May and graincrops on 53 percent. In the space of 1 week graincrops were sown on an area of 12.7 million hectares, which is 4.5 million hectares more than the previous week. Rice sowing is being carried out at a faster rate than last year. The plans for sowing it have been completed by farms in the Ukraine; Rostovskaya Oblast and kolhozes and sovkhozes in the Kuban are also completing it. At the same time rice sowing is lagging behind at farms in Astrakhanskaya Oblast and Dagestan ASSR. Weather conditions are delaying the rate at which millet and buckwheat are being sown. These have been sown on 25 percent of the area so far. The optimum times for sowing them are now present in most regions. Good soil moisture has created favorable conditions for thoroughly clearing fields of weeds and for carrying out quality sowing of these important foodstuff [prodovolstvennyy] crops.

Millet and buckwheat sowing is being carried out as a rule on all the area together with the application of fertilizer into drill rows.

Sowing of corn for grain has been carried out on 96 percent of the area. However, delays are being allowed and this sowing has still not been completed at farms in Rostovskaya and Voronezhskaya oblasts and north Ossetian ASSR. This year kolhozes and sovkhozes are paying great attention to increasing the output of sunflowerseed oil. Many farms are expanding the area sown to sunflower and are looking for ways of overfulfilling sowing plans. The sowing of soya is being completed in European USSR. Farms in Krosnodarskiy Kray have sown soya on more than 15,000 hectares--1.5 times more than plan and 3 times as much as last year. In the Far East, which is the main region where it is cultivated, the optimum time for soya sowing is only just beginning.

Completing the sowing of spring crops, farms in southern and western regions of the country are paying attention to the formation of optimum thickness of stand and to controlling weeds in cotton, beet, corn, sunflower and other row crops. The tending of these crops now determines the level of their yield.

Farms in eastern regions of the country, Siberia and north Kazakhstan have begun the mass sowing of graincrops. In 1 week, grain crops were sown in Kazakhstan on 3 million hectares. Reserves of moisture in the soil are good in most places and the earth has warmed up nicely. The optimum times here are very short and farms are doing everything to carry out sowing quickly on well-prepared soil.

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